



T E X A S S T A T E P A R K S

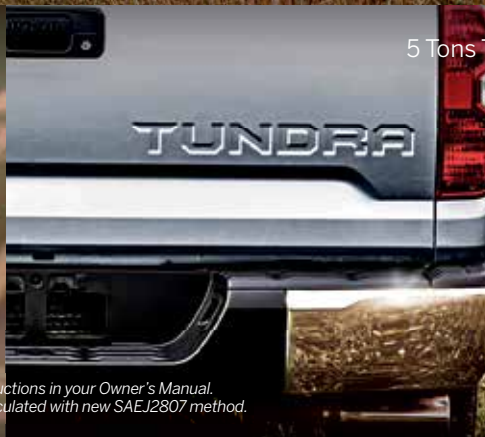
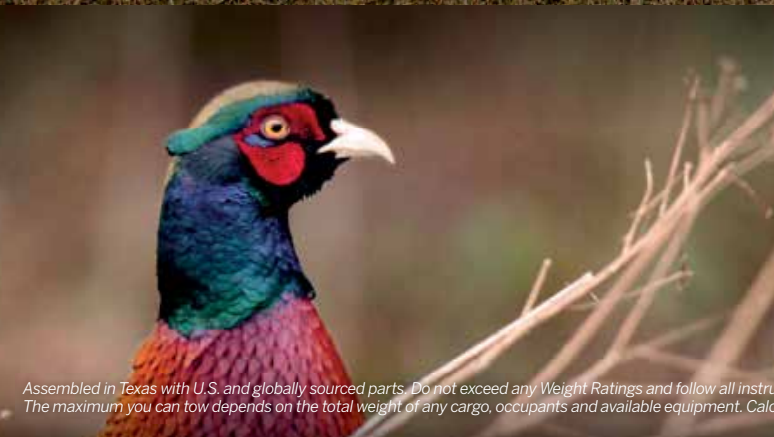
State Park Guide

Maps
Facilities
Activities

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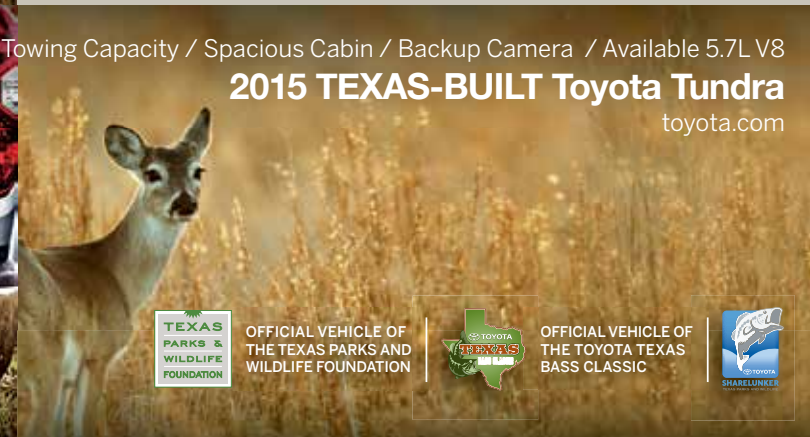
Wildlife in mirror
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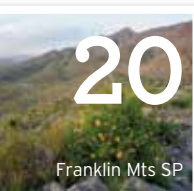
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Cover photo: South Llano River State Park, Chase Fountain

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WELCOME

from Brent Leisure, State Parks Director

Visitors are the past, present and future of Texas State Parks. To the widening world of youth, families, businesses, cultures and communities who treasure their time in the Texas outdoors, thank you.

Wherever we come from, and wherever we live now, today's generations continue to discover how incredibly convenient, comfortable and close to home state parks can be. I continue to be inspired by the similarities, as well as the differences, in the paths we travel as we grow to value outdoor recreation, conservation and healthy living.

I would like to invite you to get the most out of your visit, whether you spend the day or stay the night. Try a new outdoor activity. Explore a historic site. Attend a guided hike or a special program. I hope this guide gives you new ideas about where to go and what to do. Most importantly, we hope to see you soon.

What's New at State Parks?

- **Sea Rim SP** added boardwalks, rinse showers, restrooms, beach camping and a new cabin.
- **Mother Neff SP** opened a new camping loop, park store, interactive exhibit and headquarters.
- **Government Canyon SNA** presented dinosaur tracks dating back 110 million years.
- **Copper Breaks SP** and **Enchanted Rock SNA** received international "Dark Sky" status.
- **Estero Llano Grande SP** welcomed Texas' first-ever sighting of a red-legged honeycreeper
- **Bastrop SP** joined partners to plant its millionth new loblolly pine as reforestation continues.
- **Galveston Island SP** received beach access restoration funding to build multiuse campsites, boardwalks and equestrian facilities.
- **Lyndon B. Johnson SP** welcomed eight young steers from the official Texas Longhorn Herd.
- **Garner SP** added \$6.9 million in annual value to the Texas economy. According to a Texas A&M study, state parks contributed an estimated \$774 million in total annual retail sales.
- **Davis Mountains SP** and **Inks Lake SP** opened new bird blinds for visitors.

texasstateparks.org

What is there to do in State Parks?

You can enjoy many activities and programs in Texas State Parks, from learning to camp with the **Texas Outdoor Family** program, taking advantage of **free fishing** opportunities or **stargazing** at one of our certified Dark Sky state parks. Here are a few more ideas to get you started!



Hiking

Walking the trails is the most popular activity in state parks. Start with a shorter loop, tackle tougher terrain or join a guided tour.



Swimming

Beat the heat at creeks, rivers, lakes, springs, pools, reservoirs and ocean beaches.



Biking

Ride close to home or visit places you've never seen. Cruise along gentle, paved pathways or tackle more challenging off-road routes.



Boating and Paddling

Rent canoes and kayaks, explore a Texas Paddling Trail or launch a boat.

Horseback Riding

Have you always wanted to ride a horse? Now is your chance! Ask about guided outings, rental options and stables for day use or overnight stays.



Picnicking

For romantic getaways, family fun days or friendly gatherings, food tastes better outside. Spread out on a blanket, relax at a table or cook on a grill.

Visitor Programs

Many state parks offer special guided and self-guided programs. Below are only a few examples, so ask the park you visit about what's available.

Kids 12 and under get **FREE ADMISSION** at more than 90 Texas State Parks!

Junior Ranger Explorer Packs



Parents and kids, check out these **free packs from participating parks!** Use the binoculars, magnifying

glasses, sketchbooks and guidebooks to spot plants and animals and track what you find.



Geocaching

Sometimes called state parks' best-kept secret, these modern-day natural treasure hunts have grown in popularity. Bring your GPS-enabled mobile device to the park to get started, or get your "passport" online and take the **Texas Geocache Challenge** for the chance to win fun prizes.



Arts in the Parks

Let nature inspire your inner photographer, painter, director or musician. Look for guided events at a park near you, or get started on your own. Artists ages 19 and younger can also be part of a **youth arts contest** across several categories, each with its own rules and prizes. Enter as many as you want!

History and Culture



Open the doors to homes, inns, missions and forts. Step onto battle-

ships, battlefields and working farms. Wander and play at Civilian Conservation Corps sites. Join and honor the **Texas Buffalo Soldiers** who bravely served in America's first African-American regular army as you learn to track an animal, fish with a cane pole or cook over a campfire.

Find state park events near you: tpwd.texas.gov/calendar



What Type of Park Visitor are You?

Whether you're looking for relaxation or adventure, Texas State Parks offer an experience perfectly fitted for you.



<< The Adventurer

You constantly seek adventure and excitement. A weekend isn't complete without some dirt on your soles. Your state park visit gives you limitless opportunities to explore, experience new thrills and simply have a lot of fun. Looking to conquer steep climbs and rocky terrain? Pedal miles of rugged trails alongside beautiful Texas scenery. And arrive at the pinnacle of your adventure by reaching a mountain peak with the sunset at your back.

The Comfort Traveler >>

You want a nice quiet getaway. Your state park visit gives you the chance for relaxation and scenic views while only a short drive from local shopping and destinations. You enjoy tasty bites during a picnic and catching glimpses of wandering wildlife. And after your day of sightseeing, return to your RV, cabin, lodge or hotel room for some much needed R & R.



<< The Family Planner

You keep the family running through the many appointments, practices and dinners. A vacation is your family's chance to get out and bond over the campfire. Your state park visit gives you easy ways to keep your kids entertained and inspire their love of the outdoors. Together, you'll kayak Texas lakes, hunt for hidden geocaching treasures, and capture that unforgettable family photo.



>> Show us what kind of park visitor you are!
Share your experiences on Instagram or Twitter by tagging **#TxStateParks**

Strike King

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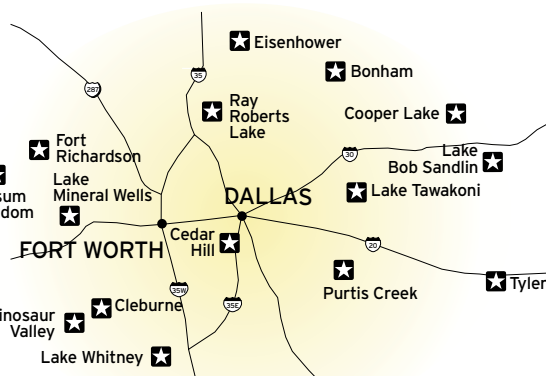
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Leaving home for a quick day trip or a relaxing weekend?
You'll find many state parks nearby.

Visitors can fish, kayak and boat at nearby lakes, or head out on land for a vast network of trails.



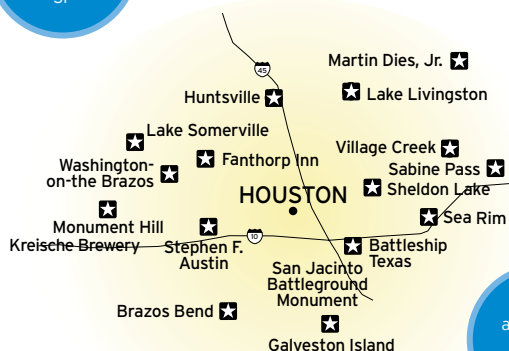
Biking and hiking trails at Cleburne SP



From miles of coastline to secluded woods and lakes, these state parks offer you a much-needed escape from the big city rush.



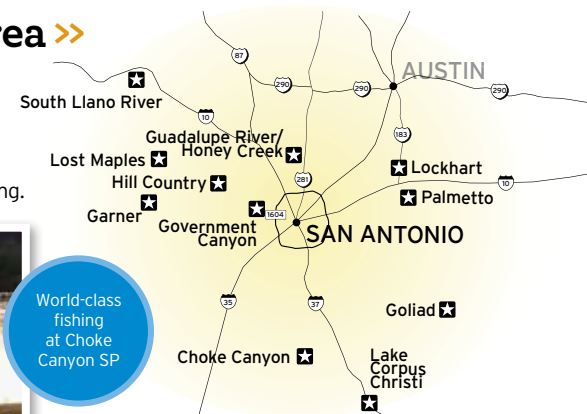
Paddling
and fishing
at Lake
Livingston SP



With a diverse group of parks nearby, visitors can discover everything from iconic historic sites to scenic rivers for swimming, fishing, tubing and kayaking.



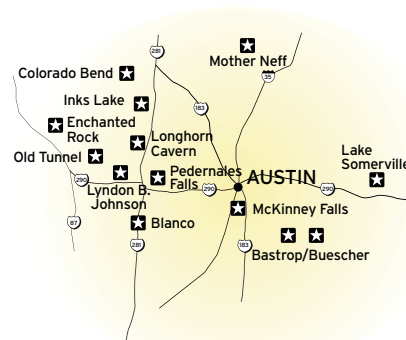
World-class
fishing
at Choke
Canyon SP



Central Texas getaways boast great opportunities to hike, bike and camp alongside rolling hills, scenic rivers and waterfalls.



River
access, lots
of trails at
Pedernales
Falls SP



Hiking and camping at Franklin Mountains SP

Visitors can escape to this beautiful landscape of rugged desert mountains, deep canyons and rolling plains, while exploring nearby outdoor attractions.



South Texas has unique destinations for exploration and fun outdoor activities, including incredible wildlife watching and birding.



Birding at
Estero Llano
Grande SP



ACCOMMODATIONS

Enjoy the Softer Side of Camping

Outdoor recreation by day. Indoor comforts at night.

Lantana Lodge - Ray Roberts Lake SP

Choose from a variety of overnight accommodations.

Lodges

Indian Lodge, inside Davis Mountains State Park, is a full-service, historic hotel with 39 rooms, a restaurant, meeting room and swimming pool.

Lantana Resort, north of Dallas in Ray Roberts Lake State Park, includes a restaurant and marina on the shores of a 30,000-acre reservoir. Guest rooms feature Western décor and stunning views of the lake.

San Solomon Springs Courts, in Balmorhea State Park, feature 18



Retro-style hotel at Balmorhea SP

historic motel-style retro lodging right next to the world's largest natural swimming pool.

Sauceda Ranch House, nestled in the desert mountains of Big Bend Ranch State Park, is a renovated, historic ranch house with three bedrooms and baths available

for rent. With its vaulted ceilings, fireplaces and impressive furniture, Sauceda features one of the more unique residential architecture styles of its day.



One-of-a-kind desert mountain scenery and comfort of the Sauceda Ranch House at Big Bend Ranch SP.



CCC-built Rim Cabins at Palo Duro Canyon SP

Full service cabins

One of the most popular attractions in state parks, these cabins feature amenities such as air conditioning and heat, bedrooms, kitchens, microwaves and restrooms.

State parks with cabins:

Bastrop, Caddo Lake, Cooper Lake, Daingerfield, Garner, Lake Brownwood, Martin Creek Lake, Palo Duro Canyon, Possum Kingdom, Sea Rim, Village Creek



Limited service cabins at Cooper Lake SP

Limited service cabins and modified shelters

Enjoy the benefits of a cabin—air conditioning, microwaves and bunk beds—with group restroom facilities and showers nearby. These are competitively priced and offer a great

way to spend the night as a group.

State parks with limited service cabins and modified shelters:

Buescher, Choke Canyon, Cooper Lake, Falcon, Fort Richardson, Huntsville, Inks Lake, Lake Bob Sandlin, Lake Colorado City, Lake Corpus Christi, Martin Creek Lake, Martin Dies, Jr., McKinney Falls, Palmetto, Palo Duro Canyon, San Angelo, Stephen F. Austin, Tyler



Group bunkhouse at Cleburne SP

Group bunkhouses

Choose from a range of styles and sizes, perfect for family reunions or other large group gatherings. Most group bunkhouses include air conditioning, restrooms and beds.

State parks with group bunkhouse facilities:

Bastrop, Big Bend Ranch, Bonham, Cleburne, Daingerfield, Devils River SNA, Estero Llano Grande, Fort Parker, Hill Country SNA, Lake Brownwood, Stephen F. Austin



Screened shelter at Lake Livingston SP

Screened shelters

Take in the sights and sounds of the outdoors from the comfort and safety of your enclosed shelter. Screened shelters include an outdoor fire ring, picnic table and grill.

State parks that offer screened shelters:

Abilene, Blanco, Brazos Bend, Buescher, Caddo Lake, Cleburne, Cooper Lake, Eisenhower, Falcon, Fort Parker, Garner, Goliad, Huntsville, Lake Bob Sandlin, Lake Brownwood, Lake Corpus Christi, Lake Livingston, Lake Mineral Wells, Lake Whitney, Martin Dies, Jr., Martin Creek Lake, Meridian, Stephen F. Austin, Tyler

Many of these accommodations are very popular. Make your reservations ahead of time. If your favorite park is booked, consider visiting during the week and beat the crowds.

texasstateparks.org/facilities

PLACES TO STAY

Taking it on the Road

From West Texas mountains to Gulf Coast beaches, state parks offer some of the best places to enjoy your RV.



Whether you travel in a Class A motorhome or with a cozy pop-up, stay the night or spend a few weeks in the perfect places for your home away from home.

How Do I Get My RV Site?

- Reserve online at texasstateparks.org/reservations or by phone at (512) 389-8900
- Know the length of your vehicle and the types of amenities you want.
- Specific amenities vary by park but can include water, electric and sewer.
- Many state parks offer additional group facilities, available by advanced reservation.

Looking to Stay a While?

Many parks offer seasonal discounts on weekly or monthly stays. These options are perfect for "Winter Texans" or anyone looking for an extended vacation.



More info on RV-compatible sites: texasstateparks.org/facilities

For same-day reservations, or site-specific facility questions, please contact the park directly.

WHO NEEDS WILD PLACES & WILD THINGS IN TEXAS?

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
BELIEVES WE ALL DO. IF YOU SHARE
THIS BELIEF, WE INVITE YOU TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION WITH US.



Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) has leveraged public funds with private philanthropy to advance Texas' proud outdoor traditions and conserve our state's wildlife, habitat, recreational areas, and natural resources. In 2014, TPWF and a multi-partner coalition acquired the stunning Powderhorn Ranch on Matagorda Bay, pictured here.

tpwf.org | 214.720.1478 | info@tpwf.org



Meet the Locals

While out and about experiencing Texas State Parks, you might encounter some of the local residents—the four-legged, finned, feathered and furry ones, that is.

Prairies and Lakes



Bobcat

This shy-natured, mostly nocturnal cat has small tufts on the tips of its ears. Its ability to adapt to changing conditions has allowed this native species to thrive even in landscapes near urban areas.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

This bird is unmistakable, with a tail that doubles its body length. It feeds mainly on insects by “hawking,” waiting on a perch and flying out to catch them in flight.

Big Bend

Gray Fox

This elusive, mostly nocturnal mammal has a unique ability to climb trees to hunt or escape danger.



Javelina

This small peccary has a white ring around its neck and feeds on prickly pear, mesquite beans, fruits and insects.

Gulf Coast

Bottlenose Dolphin

One of over 20 cetacean species found on the Texas coast, these curious, intelligent mammals have stout bodies, short beaks and erect dorsal fins.



South Texas Plains

Greater Roadrunner

An icon of the Southwest, this swift, animated bird often prefers to run rather than fly, whether chasing down snakes and lizards or fleeing from danger. Its X-shaped footprint helps conceal the direction it is heading.



Pineywoods



Beaver

This sleek, streamlined swimmer assures its water supply and establishes its territory by building a dam and home of mud, rocks and wood.



Woodpeckers

The red-headed woodpecker is striking at rest and in flight, with its colors of red, black and white. Also look for the red crested and black body of the pileated woodpecker, one of the largest woodpeckers in North America.

Hill Country

Porcupine

These shy, docile rodents eat bark, climb trees well and feature quill-tipped, bushy hair. Give them space!



Wild Turkey

This large upland game bird lives in tree-studded or brushy areas, often near streams and rivers. Although it roosts in the tops of tall trees, it nests on the ground. They see and hear well but have very little sense of smell!

Panhandle Plains

Mule Deer

The largest native deer species in Texas, this hardy, hoofed mammal will often seem to “hop” on all fours for a quick escape, rather than run.



Black-tailed Prairie Dog

Look for their homes: large, bare patches of open ground with colonies of small dirt mounds atop their burrows, called “prairie dog towns.”



To help keep wildlife wild, please maintain a safe, respectful distance.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Pack it Up

Ensure that you and your group have the supplies to make your visit as enjoyable, comfortable and safe as possible.



SAFETY BASICS

- ___ bug spray
- ___ bungee cords/rope
- ___ candles
- ___ cell phone
- ___ compass
- ___ duct tape
- ___ flashlight/headlight
- ___ pocketknife/multi-tool
- ___ sunblock
- ___ GPS
- ___ map
- ___ lantern
- ___ matches
- ___ rain poncho
- ___ water filters
- ___ whistle

FIRST AID KIT

- ___ personal medication
- ___ bandages
- ___ sterile gauze
- ___ antibiotic cream
- ___ burn ointment
- ___ sunburn lotion
- ___ scissors
- ___ tweezers
- ___ eye wash

SHELTER & BEDDING

- ___ tent and poles
- ___ tarp
- ___ sleeping bag & pad
- ___ pillow/headrest

SPECIAL CLOTHING

- ___ hiking boots
- ___ camp shoes
- ___ hat/cap
- ___ sweater
- ___ swimsuit

CLEANING ITEMS

- ___ dish rags
- ___ pot scrubber

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- ___ toothbrush & toothpaste
- ___ washcloth(s)/towel(s)
- ___ biodegradable soap
- ___ comb/brush
- ___ nail clippers
- ___ razor
- ___ toilet paper
- ___ shower bag
- ___ sanitary napkins
- ___ clothespins

RECREATION

- ___ binoculars
- ___ bird guide

- ___ camera
- ___ cards, games
- ___ firewood (sold in many state park stores)
- ___ fishing gear

COOKING & DINING

- ___ water
- ___ food
- ___ cooler
- ___ camp stove
- ___ fire starter/lighter
- ___ can opener
- ___ charcoal
- ___ salt, herbs, spices
- ___ cooking oil
- ___ pot holders
- ___ paper towels
- ___ plastic trash bags
- ___ tongs & spatula
- ___ aluminum foil
- ___ measuring cups
- ___ plastic silverware
- ___ paper plates/bowls
- ___ plastic cups
- ___ zip lock bags
- ___ cutting board
- ___ charcoal chimney smoker
- ___ chairs
- ___ folding table
- ___ tablecloth

Keep your day on the water fun and safe by following these tips:

Swim Smart. Stay Safe.

- **Wear a life jacket and sunscreen.**
- **Supervise children at all times.**
- **Learn to swim.**
- **Drink plenty of water and take breaks.**

(Summer heat can cause dehydration even when in the water.)

MERRELL

OUT.PERFORM.™



Men's All Out Blaze
Mid Waterproof



Women's Azura



**Outfitting Texans for
Adventure, Travel & Fun!**

STORE LOCATIONS

2410 San Antonio Street	Austin	512-478-1577
1014 North Lamar	Austin	512-476-1414
Westgate Shopping Center	Austin	512-899-0992
5400 East Mockingbird Ln.	Dallas	214-824-7444
Preston Forest Center	Dallas	972-861-5700
2934 South Shepherd Dr.	Houston	713-526-5226
2501 Post Oak Blvd.	Houston	713-526-5440
The Quarry Market	San Antonio	210-829-8888
Southlake Town Square	Southlake	817-442-9132

STATE PARK VISITOR FEES



Thank you for keeping Texas State Parks open and well-maintained! Every time you visit a state park, you help fund important park upkeep, valuable visitor programs and popular new improvements. About 50% of the state parks operating budget comes directly from visitor fees. All fees vary by park.

Entrance Fee - for day use, including a variety of activities and visitor programs. This fee allows entrance at multiple state parks in the same business day.

Admission to Texas State Parks is FREE for kids 12 and under.

Facility Fee - additional fee paid to stay overnight at a campsite, cabin or guest room, or to rent a group facility, meeting room or pavilion.

Activity Fee - additional fee paid to participate in a special park activity, tour a historic site or ride a ferry or tram.

Make your reservation:
texasstateparks.org/reservations

(512) 389-8900* *Available 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Fri., except holidays.
For same-day reservations, contact the park directly.

Unlimited park visits. All year.

Get an annual park pass and enjoy a year of free admission.

Texas State Parks Pass

Get **unlimited free entry** to more than 90 state parks for you and a carload of guests (good for 12 months).

Plus, receive discounts on camping, park store merchandise and more.

\$70
per pass

Two-card
membership
for \$95



Purchase your State Park Pass during your next visit to a state park or by calling (512) 389-8900.

Parklands Passport

Qualifying seniors, persons with disabilities and disabled veterans can apply for a free Parklands Passport. The pass includes discounted or free entry to the more than 90 state parks. Present proof of qualifying benefit at any state park office to receive your Parklands Passport.

Note: Texas does not recognize annual pass programs of other state park systems or the National Park Service.

Youth Group Annual Pass

Non-profit youth groups buy this pass and get free entry for a year for youth visitors, ages 13 to 17. Each pass costs \$100 and is good for 50 kids and adult chaperones. Download and submit your application at least four weeks before your visit.

texasstateparks.org/passes

STATE PARKS DIRECTORY

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South Llano River State Park

Facilities & Amenities in Texas State Parks

Use this legend as a reference for each of the parks listed in the State Parks Directory pages.

	Boat Ramp		Open Beach
	Cabins		Park Store
	Cabins - Limited		Picnic Tables
	Camp - Group		Playground
	Campsites - Primitive/Walk-in		Restaurant
	Campsites - Tent		Restrooms
	Campsites - Water and Electric		Rock Climbing
	Campsites - Water, Electric and Sewer		Screened Shelter
	CCC		Shelters with A/C
	Dump Station		Showers
	Exhibit/Interpretive Center		Swimming
	Facility - Day Use Only		Swimming Pool
	Facility - Day Use Group		Trails - Biking
	Facility - Equestrian		Trails - Equestrian
	Facility - Overnight Group		Trails - Hiking
	Fishing		Trails - Mountain Biking
	Fish Cleaning Shelters		Trails - Nature/Interpretive
	Fishing Pier		Trails - Primitive Hiking
	Fishing Tackle Loaner Program		Watercraft Rental
	Golf		Water Skiing
	Historic Site/Museum		Wheelchair Accessible
	Motel/Lodging		Wi-Fi available www.texasstateparks.org/wifi

Check texasstateparks.org or (512) 389-8900 in advance of your trip in case of schedule or operational changes.

Barton Warnock Visitor Center

HC 70, Box 375, Terlingua 79852 ☎ (432) 424-3327

GPS Latitude N 29 16 11.85 | Longitude W 103 45 14.83



This interpretive center showcases the botanical and biological diversity of the vast Chihuahuan Desert with a 2.5-acre botanical garden and a bilingual exhibit, “Una Tierra – One Land” which clearly explains 570 million years of geological changes that created the Big Bend region. The Center also serves as the eastern entry point to Big Bend Ranch

State Park. All permits may be obtained here, as well as information regarding hiking, biking, river and equestrian opportunities. Barton Warnock Center manages campsites along the Rio Grande. 📶

Big Bend Ranch State Park

1900 Saucedo Ranch Road, Presidio 79845

HCR 67 Box 33, Marfa 79843 ☎ (432) 358-4444

GPS Latitude N 29 28 12.18 | Longitude W 103 57 29.08



Deep in the mountainous desert wilderness, a 300,000-plus-acre park opens a spectacular landscape to the public. With more than 50 recently developed, primitive campsites and over 200 miles of multiuse trails, Big Bend Ranch State Park has become a premier destination for mountain biking, horseback riding, remote backcountry camping, and 4x4 vehicle use. Drive into the park over a 27-mile gravel road that leads through rugged terrain and ends at the former owner's ranch headquarters at Saucedo. Make reservations to stay in the old ranch house known as the “Saucedo Ranch House,” which includes a kitchen for your use. Larger groups can be accommodated at the casual bunkhouse, with separate sleeping areas for men and women. *Reservations can be made by calling the Big Bend Ranch reservation line at (512) 389-8919. 📶 (Saucedo area)*

Davis Mountains State Park

16453 Park Rd 3, Fort Davis 79734 ☎ (432) 426-3337

GPS Latitude N 30 35 56.83 | Longitude W 103 55 46.09



Soothing breezes weaving through the mountain passes greet you on the drive to Davis Mountains State Park in the heart of the Davis Mountains, the most extensive mountain range fully contained in Texas. Find the coolest place in a hot state when you camp in mountains one mile high inside this park built by the CCC. Motor into a full hookup site (all with cable TV), backpack to a high overlook, make camp under the trees, check out the two beautiful wildlife viewing areas or visit Indian Lodge (page 30), located inside the park. While you're here, visit nearby Fort Davis National Historic Site or attend a “star party” at the McDonald Observatory, where you can see the stars through giant telescopes. 📶

Devils River State Natural Area

HC 01, Box 513, Del Rio 78840 ☎ (830) 395-2133

GPS Latitude N 29 56 22.84 | Longitude W 100 58 13.18



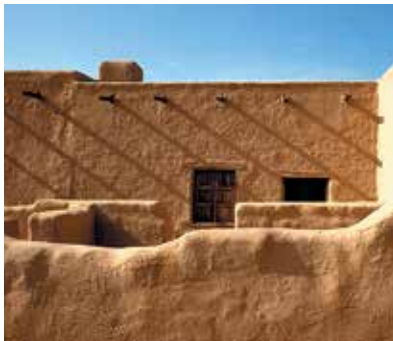
Fed by clear springs flowing from seeps and streams within the region's karst topography, the Devils River is one of the most ecologically intact rivers in Texas, giving life to diverse plants and wildlife. The state natural area's large size and remoteness support day hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Advance preparation is a must, as all camping and facility stays are by reservation only, and

all reservations must be made at least one day in advance. A permit is required for all paddling trips on the Devils River which access TPWD-managed lands. *For more information about the Devils River State Natural Area Access Permit (DRAP), please visit the park page online.*

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

FM 170 East, Presidio 79845 ☎ (432) 229-3613

GPS Latitude N 29 32 38.004 | Longitude W 104 19 39



Picnic at this 1848 adobe fortress and trading post on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande where Ben Leaton dominated trade with the Apaches, Comanches and Mexicans. Today the site is an active museum offering audiovisual programs, reenactments, tours and colorful events. This is the western gateway to Big Bend Ranch State Park. Enjoy the holidays with the annual reenacted *posadas* in December. 📶

LEARN HOW TO CAMP!

Texas Outdoor Family teaches your family basic outdoor skills needed for a great camping trip. Get hands-on experience in camping, outdoor cooking, geocaching and more. We even provide the equipment!

**NO
EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!**



FIND A WORKSHOP NEAR YOU:
texasstateparks.org/tof
 or call (512) 389-8903



Franklin Mountains State Park

Headquarters: 1331 McKelligon Canyon Road, El Paso 79930 ☎ (915) 566-6441

GPS Latitude N 31 50 32.60 | Longitude W 106 29 11.20

Tom Mays Unit: 3.5 miles East of I-10 on Transmountain Road

GPS Latitude N 31 55 00.87 | Longitude W 106 31 10.20



At the westernmost tip of Texas, where the mountains meet the sky and cities hug the Rio Grande, lies the largest state park in an urban setting. Franklin Mountains State Park encompasses 26,627 acres in the city of El Paso. Hike rugged terrain in 40 square miles of Chihuahuan Desert wilderness, scrub vegetation and open space with over 100 miles of multiuse trails that are especially popular with hikers and mountain bikers. Camp and picnic, too. Ground fires are allowed on designated fire rings only, charcoal fires can be built in grills at the picnic sites.

Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site

6900 Hueco Tanks Road No. 1, El Paso 79938 ☎ (915) 857-1135

GPS Latitude N 31 55 33.78 | Longitude W 106 02 31.59



This site is named for the natural rock basins in its granite outcroppings that capture rainwater, a precious resource in the Chihuahuan Desert environment. For millennia, people seeking life-giving water and the diverse plants and animals that could be found here left curious and beautiful paintings on the

rocks. Today this ancient site preserves more than 2,000 pictographs that are a wonder to behold.

Because of the sensitive nature of the site, visitation is limited and reservations are recommended for day use, camping and tours. Pictograph tours, hiking tours and bouldering tours in the guided area are available by advance request Wednesday through Sunday. *Reservations can be made by calling the Hueco Tanks reservation line at (512) 389-8911* 📞

Indian Lodge State Park

16453 Park Rd 3, Fort Davis 79734 📞 (432) 426-3254

GPS Latitude N 30 35 34.79 | Longitude W 103 56 38.4



Nestled in the Davis Mountains, within Davis Mountains State Park, this southwestern, pueblo style adobe lodge charms with its original handcrafted interiors and furnishings dating from its 1930s construction by the CCC. In addition to the guest rooms with cable TV, telephones and private baths, the lodge has a full-service restaurant (closed for renovation fall 2015 thru fall 2016), a group meeting room and a swimming pool, making this truly a unique destination in a mountain setting. *Reservations can be made by calling the Indian Lodge reservation line at (512) 389-8982.* 📶

Monahans Sandhills State Park

Park Road 41, Monahans 79756 📞 (432) 943-2092

GPS Latitude N 31 37 08.00 | Longitude W 102 48 43.52



Fun-loving travelers surf the sand dunes that rise as high as 70 feet in this geologic wonderland. These sand dunes are only a small part of a larger 200-square-mile dune field that stretches into New Mexico. Rent sand disks, then visit exhibits that explain the dune dynamics and desert wildlife. Picnicking and camping are also popular at this park, located off I-20 west of Odessa, just east of the town of Monahans. 📶

Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site

Hwy. 90 West, Park Road 67, Comstock 78837 📞 (432) 292-4464

GPS Latitude N 29 42 00.36 | Longitude W 101 18 47.01



Ancient pictographs, rugged limestone terrain and spectacular canyons lure visitors to Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site. People of antiquity once lived in these natural rock shelters carved into the canyon walls. They painted distinctive ancient symbols that tell us of their passing. The park contains rock art dated more than 4,000 years old and considered to be some of North America's oldest. Visitors can hike the rugged landscape, take a guided tour into the canyons to see the renowned pictographs in Fate Bell Shelter, camp in a tent or RV, or learn more inside the park's interpretive museum. Seminole Canyon has many stories to tell. Guided rock art tours are available Wednesdays through Sundays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (times may vary during the summer months). Contact the park for more information. 📶

Wyer Aerial Tramway

1700 McKinley, El Paso 79930 ☎ (915) 566-6622

GPS Latitude N 31 48 36.50 | Longitude W 106 28 39.79



Glide to the top of Ranger Peak inside Franklin Mountains State Park in an airborne Swiss gondola. From a mile-high seat in the sky, see Mexico, New Mexico and the City of El Paso unfold below you. Souvenirs, snacks, books and gifts are available at the Observation Deck on top. After dark, catch the panorama of El Paso and its gold- and silver-hued lights against a dramatic desert backdrop. Plentiful hiking opportunities between the peak and the base exist for those looking to explore from a different perspective. 📶

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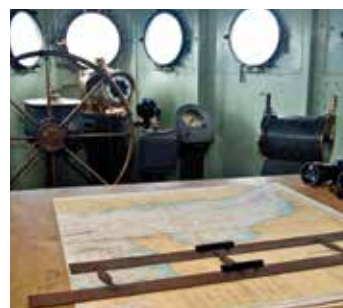


Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Battleship Texas State Historic Site

3523 Independence Parkway South, La Porte 77571 📞 (281) 479-2431

GPS Latitude N 29 45 05.72 | Longitude W 95 05 23.64



Located at San Jacinto Battleground, Battleship Texas is the last surviving Dreadnought-type ship in the world and is the only remaining battleship to have served in both World Wars. When she was commissioned in 1914, the vessel was considered the most advanced military weapon on the planet. During her service, Texas was modernized many times with the latest in cutting-edge technology and was the first U.S. battleship to launch an aircraft, mount anti-aircraft batteries and have radar installed.

Brazos Bend State Park

21901 F.M. 762, Needville 77461 📞 (979) 553-5101

GPS Latitude N 29 22 15.16 | Longitude W 95 37 54.58



Named one of America's top state parks by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, this park includes almost 5,000 acres of lakes, prairies and bottomland hardwood forests. Areas of huge live oak trees draped in Spanish moss provide shade to the park's three day-use areas. Thirty-five miles of multiuse trails, spanning a diverse ecology, offer visitors prime viewing of alligators, white-tailed deer and more than 300 species of birds. Six small lakes and a winding, tree-lined creek offer places to fish. Touch a "baby" alligator at the park's nature center, which is open daily. Nature programs are offered every weekend and most holidays. The George Observatory is also located within the park and has three telescope domes for star parties on Saturday nights. *For more information about the observatory please call (281) 242-3055.* 📶

Galveston Island State Park

14901 F.M. 3005, Galveston 77554 📞 (409) 737-1222

GPS Latitude N 29 11 55.10 | Longitude W 94 57 23.40



Galveston Island SP is an excellent example of Texas Gulf Coast ecology, providing access to almost 2,000 acres of beach, bay and wetland areas that provide ample fishing, kayaking, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Multiuse campsites are available on both the beach and bay sides of the park with restrooms and showers nearby. A day use area with shaded picnic tables, grills, restrooms and rinse-off showers is available for beach goers.

Goose Island State Park

202 S. Palmetto St., Rockport 78382 📞 (361) 729-2858

GPS Latitude N 28 08 00.67 | Longitude W 96 59 03.44



Brown pelicans, rare whooping cranes and fishing in the bountiful waters of Aransas, Copano and St. Charles bays draw visitors to Texas' first coastal state park. Protected from coastal storms, the park is located on the southern tip of the Lamar Peninsula and is dominated by dramatic wind-sculpted trees and is home to the "Big Tree," a massive coastal live oak estimated to be more than 1,000 years old and one of the natural wonders of Texas. Goose Island features camping areas overlooking Aransas Bay or beneath the shade of live oak groves. 📶

Lake Corpus Christi State Park

23194 Park Rd 25, Mathis 78368 📞 (361) 547-2635

GPS Latitude N 28 03 47.23 | Longitude W 97 52 20.20



Swimming, boating, waterskiing and sailboarding fill summer hours on this large placid lake, while angling for black bass, striped bass, crappie and catfish are year-round pleasures. The CCC built an impressive caliche crete open-air refectory with arched walls and a tower that affords excellent views over the lake.

Lipantitlan State Historic Site

Day use only, c/o Lake Corpus Christi State Park. 📞 (361) 547-2635

GPS Latitude N 27 57 53.99 | Longitude W 97 49 4.79

A historical marker commemorates this site, named for the Lipan Apache and the 1835 battle between Texian insurgents and the Mexican Army that occurred here.

Mustang Island State Park

17047 State Hwy. 361, Port Aransas 78373 ☎ (361) 749-5246

GPS Latitude N 27 40 24.13 | Longitude W 97 10 29.71



Seaside beaches stretch for five miles along the open Gulf of Mexico, inviting a perfect summer-at-the-shore experience. This is truly one of the best places to see coastal marine life, from green sea turtles to blue herons. Reservations are recommended for campsites with water and electricity. Primitive beach camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are rinse showers, bulk water and portable toilets in convenience stations along the beach. Come take in the surf and the sun! 📶

Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site

421 East Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel 78578 📞 (956) 943-2262

GPS Latitude N 26 04 40.1 | Longitude W 97 12 27.1



This coastal “light” was built in 1852 in response to requests from sea captains for help in navigating around the low-lying Texas coast. Technology changes, the coming of the railroad and the consequent drop in commercial shipping made lighthouses obsolete. At one time there were 16 lighthouses on the Texas coast. Now, only one of the historic structures is open to the public. A museum, a replica of the lighthouse keeper’s cottage and picnic tables sit in the shadow of the 72-foot-high tower, which is operated by the City of Port Isabel.

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Resaca de la Palma State Park

1000 New Carmen Ave., Brownsville 78521 📞 (956) 350-2920

GPS Latitude N 25 59 13.19 | Longitude W 97 33 50.39



Located in the heart of the Rio Grande River delta, the park boasts 1,200 acres of semitropical habitat, and is home to a vast diversity of wildlife and endless recreational opportunities. Visitors can watch great kiskadees, altamira orioles and green jays or relax on an informative tram tour. Experience one of the most well-preserved ecosystems in south Texas, only minutes away from the urban center of Brownsville. The bird blinds and observation decks found throughout the park provide the ideal setting for birding. Dazzling blue metalmark and Mexican bluewing butterflies can be found in the butterfly gardens surrounding the Visitor Center. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the miles of hiking and biking trails, multiple geocaches and numerous picnic tables. Park visitors can participate in ranger-led programs and guided nature walks. The Texas State Park Store “Sabal” offers a variety of field guides, books, and an assortment of souvenir and educational items. Bicycles and binoculars are also available for rent.

San Jacinto Battleground-Monument State Historic Site

3523 Independence Parkway South, La Porte 77571 📞 (281) 479-2431

GPS Latitude N 29 44 56.5 | Longitude W 95 04 51.7



The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site preserves the proud history of the state of Texas and the United States. The Battle of San Jacinto, fought here on April 21, 1836, secured Texas' independence from Mexico. This site's National Historic Landmark status attests to the battle's importance to state, national and international history.

Visit the battleground, and follow a trail and boardwalk through a wetland where native prairie grasses, marshes and bottomland forests are being restored to their 1836 appearance to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Tour the San Jacinto Museum of History at the base of the 570-foot-tall San Jacinto Monument. This Texas icon is the tallest stone column memorial structure in the world, 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. 📶

Sea Rim State Park

19335 S Gulfway Drive, Sabine Pass 77655 ☎ (409) 971-2559

GPS Latitude N 29 40 31.8 | Longitude W 94 02 38.2



“Sea Rim” refers to the portion of coastal shoreline where marsh grass and wetlands intersect with the gulf surf waters, an area in southeast Texas formed by silt deposits from the Sabine River delta. Fishing, birding, nature study and other day-use recreation activities are popular along the more than 4,000 acres and five miles of Gulf of Mexico beach. In addition to the beach day use area and primitive beach campsites, the park has recently developed 15 water and electric campsites, a full service cabin, west dune boardwalk with rinse off showers, and marsh paddling trails. The park also offers the Gambusia Interpretive Trail and seasonal equestrian trails along the beach. Other facilities such as a fish cleaning shelter, marsh viewing platform, and nature trails are planned and will be available soon. 📶

Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center

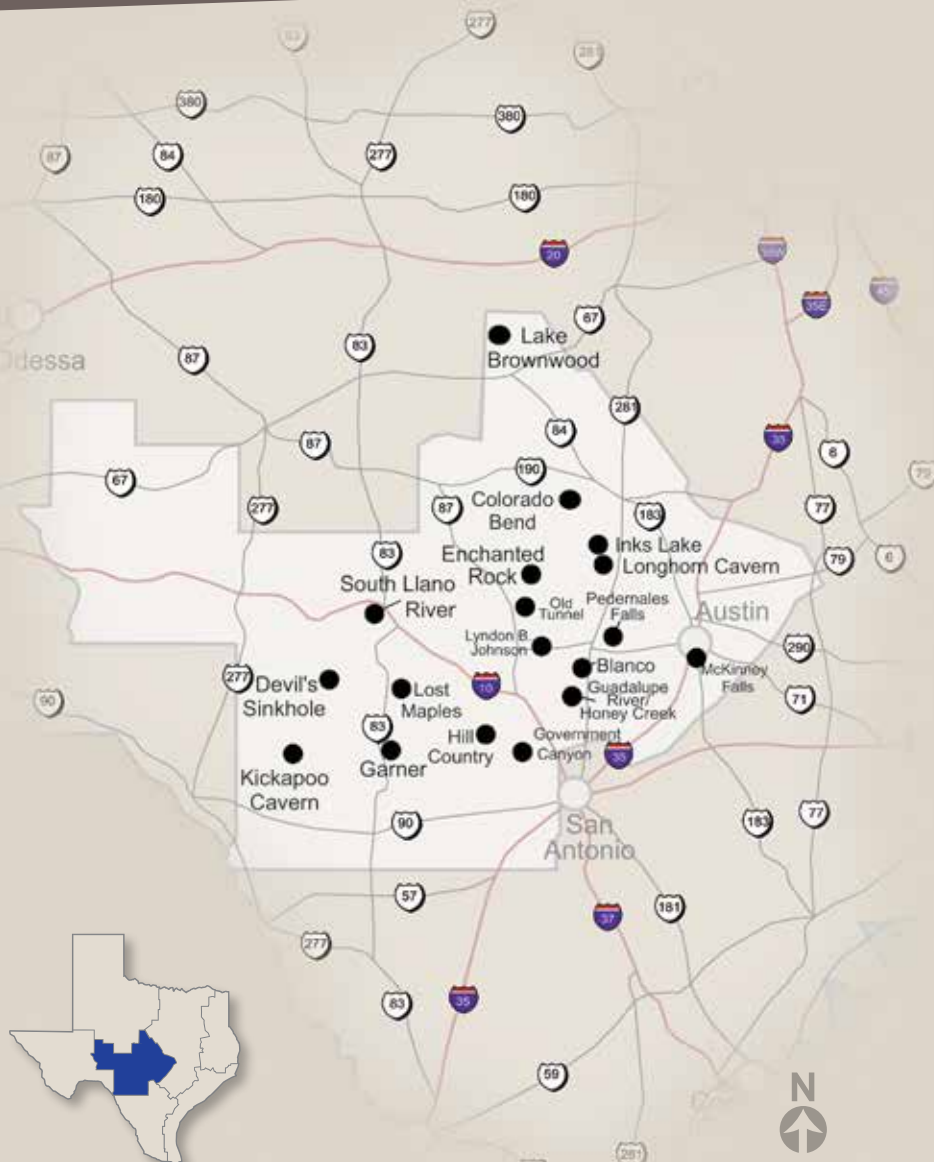
14140 Garrett Road, Houston 77044 ☎ (281) 456-2800

GPS Latitude N 29 51 28.04 | Longitude W 95 09 36.90



Only 15 miles from downtown Houston, this 2,800-acre “green and blue island” is surrounded by the highways, railroads and industry of the Bayou City. Sheldon Lake provides excellent wildlife viewing, paddling, boating and fishing. Open for day use, the park features a fish hatchery “gone wild” plus wheelchair-accessible trails and LEED-certified facilities demonstrating “green architecture” and alternative energy at work. This outdoor classroom for all ages provides programming for schools, groups and individuals by reservation. Free catch-and-release fishing is permitted at two stocked ponds while free catch-and-keep fishing is permitted in the shallow waters of the 1,200-acre Sheldon Reservoir. Take a stroll along the new 3,000-ft. Prairie/Wetland Boardwalk or enjoy a bird’s-eye view of Sheldon Lake and the restored prairie and wetlands atop the John Jacob Observation Tower. 📶

HILL COUNTRY



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Blanco State Park

101 Park Road 23, Blanco 78606 ☎ (830) 833-4333

GPS Latitude N 30 05 34.11 | Longitude W 98 25 25.57



Located four blocks from Blanco's charming, historic town square, the park borders one mile of the spring-fed Blanco River and draws crowds from nearby Austin and San Antonio to relax in the sun, swim, tube, fish and camp. Bring your own volleyball and net, horseshoes and floats to make the most of the facilities. Spend a quiet weekend picnicking under the trees and watching stars at night. Shelters,

campsites and a CCC-built group facility make this park popular with both tent campers and RVers, as does its proximity to U.S. Highway 281. Rent tubes and canoes at the state park store. Blanco State Park is well known as a small, peaceful, family-oriented park. 📶

Colorado Bend State Park

P.O. Box 118, Bend 76824 ☎ (325) 628-3240

GPS Latitude N 31 01 22.40 | Longitude W 98 26 32.67



Come enjoy the wilderness of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. Colorado Bend offers a rugged and picturesque landscape suited to primitive tent camping. You'll discover 34 miles of hike and bike trails, spring-fed creeks and swimming holes, limestone bluffs and canyons, and abundant wildlife. Visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking, birding, serious mountain biking, backpacking, geocaching, and swimming. Hike to Gorman Falls, a breathtaking 65-foot travertine waterfall that cascades down to the Colorado River, or take the guided tour on Saturday afternoon. Reserve a

weekend cave tour to explore the underground passages and large chambers found beneath this unique piece of the Texas Hill Country.

Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area

Headquarters: 101 North Sweeten Street, Rocksprings 78880 📞 (830) 563-2342

GPS Latitude N 30 03 33.19 | Longitude W 100 06 35.17



Peer into the depths of Devil's Sinkhole, then watch as millions of bats emerge into the Texas evening sky. The natural area is home to the largest single-chambered and third-deepest cavern in the state. Evening flight tours are offered Wednesday through Sunday evenings during the summer to witness the bat emergence. Access to the natural area is limited to tours, and reservations are required. Birding tours are also available. Make reservations through the Devil's Sinkhole Society: (830) 683-2287.


Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

16710 Ranch Road 965, Fredericksburg 78624 📞 (830) 685-3636

GPS Latitude N 30 29 45.45 | Longitude W 98 49 11.53



Climb to the top of this unique pink granite dome that rises 425 feet above the surrounding countryside, 1,825 feet above sea level. Enchanted Rock State Natural Area covers 1,640 acres and is one of the largest batholiths, or exposed underground rock formations, in the United States. Tonkawa Indians named it,

believing ghost fires flickered at the top and that a Spanish conquistador had cast a spell on it. Enchanted Rock was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1970 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The park is very popular with rock climbers, and for geological study, picnicking and school groups. It is also a renowned destination for birdwatching, stargazing, hiking and tent camping, especially on weekends. Mid-week or off-season periods offer smaller crowds, and visitors are encouraged to reserve campsites months in advance. 

Garner State Park

234 R.R. 1050, Concan 78838 ☎ (830) 232-6132

GPS Latitude N 29 34 54.48 | Longitude W 99 44 30.69




Garner State Park is a summer ritual for so many families that now some represent the fifth generation to have spent part of their vacation on the Frio River. Some of the traditions began during the CCC period of the 1930s when the “boys” constructed a stone dance pavilion and invited local girls to the dance. Now the park hosts the oldest outdoor dance in Texas with jukebox music filling the valley each summer evening. During the day, enjoy tubing in the cool waters among the cypress trees and many scenic views. Summer

weekends are typically busy, with parking lots filled, and day users may be turned away. Best advice: Visit during mid-week or off-season periods. Reserve cabins, shelters and campsites months in advance. A visitor center, seasonal grocery store, miniature golf and pedal boats are also available. 📶

Government Canyon State Natural Area

12861 Galm Road, San Antonio 78254 ☎ (210) 688-9055

GPS Latitude N 29 32 57.60 | Longitude W 98 45 53.43



Whether hiking, mountain biking or camping under a Hill Country sky, this 12,000-acre preserve located minutes from the Alamo and San Antonio Riverwalk offers ample opportunity to explore. In addition to the more than 40 miles of trails, which range from rugged canyon land to gentle rolling prairie, the park is home to 25 walk-in tent sites and 20 picnic sites. Protecting a landscape dedicated to recharge of the Edwards Aquifer, Government Canyon also provides sanctuary for a diverse array of plant and animal life. Search for the elusive golden-cheeked warbler while hiking the Back Country or spot wild turkey, bobwhite quail, or white-tailed deer while traversing the live oak savannah of the Front Country. For a glimpse into the distant past, imagine the landscape of Central Texas 100 million years ago while visiting dinosaur tracks preserved in the limestone bedrock of Government Canyon Creek. The visitor center complex includes a store, a rentable, screened meeting facility and a rentable, covered group picnic pavilion. The natural area is only open Friday–Monday, with special holiday openings. 📶

Guadalupe River State Park

3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch 78070 📞 (830) 438-2656

GPS Latitude N 29 51 11.23 | Longitude W 98 30 15.66



Located at the southeastern edge of the Hill Country, visitors can enjoy a full complement of outdoor recreational opportunities ranging from picnicking and camping to hiking and horseback riding. Within the park's boundaries flows the scenic Guadalupe River, complete with bald cypress-lined banks, dramatic limestone bluffs and natural rapids, making it a favorite destination for swimming, fishing, tubing and canoeing/kayaking. The park also provides an excellent put-in and take-out spot for float trips. The Discovery Center located within the park provides visitors with wonderful educational opportunities to "Take a Closer Look" at the nature of the park and river through exhibits and ranger-led programs. 📶



HONEY CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

This 2,000-acre natural area is home to four protected wildlife species including the golden-cheeked warbler. Towering bald cypress and sycamore trees envelop Honey Creek in an oasis of amazing beauty. Spanish moss drapes overhead branches while dwarf palmetto and maidenhair fern adorn the creek banks. Access is available only through Guadalupe River State Park via 9:00 a.m. Saturday Guided Hike.

Hill Country State Natural Area

10600 Bandera Creek Road, Bandera 78003 📞 (830) 796-4413

GPS Latitude N 29 37 40.98 | Longitude W 99 10 50.48



A scenic and largely undeveloped mosaic of rocky hills, oak groves, grasslands and canyons, this site is especially well-suited for the visitor seeking a remote retreat. The natural area offers primitive, back country, and group camping to both equestrian and non-equestrian campers. A great destination for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, the site offers over 40 miles of multiuse trails. It covers 5,400 acres, formerly the Merrick Bar-O Ranch, near cowboy-

centric Bandera. Overnight equestrian campsites have corrals, water troughs, tables and fire rings. For those seeking more comfort, try the group lodge, a rustic ranch house that sleeps up to 9, but will accommodate 12 people with additional space for outdoor campers. Guided horseback riding can be arranged through commercial guide service providers (visit the natural area website for details) or bring your own mount (proof of negative Coggins test required at check-in).

Inks Lake State Park

3630 Park Road 4 West, Burnet 78611 📞 (512) 793-2223

GPS Latitude N 30 44 14.67 | Longitude W 98 22 08.54



Inks Lake is one in a chain of "Highland Lakes" created in the 1930s through a series of impoundments along the Colorado River, providing excellent water recreation access. The park boasts beautiful outcroppings of ancient, granite-like rock, called gneiss, that make the park one of the state's best geological wonders. Guided canoe tours and

nature hikes with park staff offer scenic views along lakeside cliffs and hilltop trails where white-tailed deer and other wildlife make themselves at home. Visitors can fish, swim or boat in the lake, rent canoes and kayaks or browse for unique gifts at the state park store, or hike along the 7-1/2 miles of trails. Also Longhorn Cavern is just a few miles away. Located within an hour of both Austin and San Antonio, Inks Lake is a popular park, so be sure to reserve campsites or cabins well in advance. 📶

Kickapoo Cavern State Park

20939 Ranch Road 674, Brackettville 78832 ☎ (830) 563-2342

GPS Latitude N 29 36 36.19 | Longitude W 100 27 08.90



Containing nearly 6,400 acres in the southwestern Hill Country, the park is relatively undeveloped—a natural open space where visitors can find solitude—but offers great activities. This park has a network of caverns, including one large enough for guided tours. It also boasts 16 tent sites and 4 full hookup campsites, great bird-watching and miles of trails for hiking and biking, in addition to Stuart Bat Cave where folks can view spectacular Mexican free-tailed bat flights during evenings of warm weather months. Contact the park in advance to schedule a Wild Cave tour. 📶

Lake Brownwood State Park

200 State Highway Park Road 15, Brownwood 76801 ☎ (325) 784-5223

GPS Latitude N 31 51 25.20 | Longitude W 99 01 42.85



An atmosphere of rustic tranquility and beauty pervades this CCC park with its stone cabins, lodges and historic recreation hall. The locally quarried native rock

cast in the outdoor patios and stairs taking visitors to the lake gives the park a timeless feel. Year after year, families return to hold their reunions here in the large group facilities. The 7,300-surface-acre lake attracts swimmers, boating enthusiasts and anglers. 📶

Longhorn Cavern State Park

P.O. Box 732, Burnet 78611 ☎ (830) 598-CAVE or (877) 441-CAVE

GPS Latitude N 30 41 04.05 | Longitude W 98 21 3.24



This beautiful cave near Inks Lake was cut long ago by underground streams. Today it stays at a comfortable 68 degrees. Cavern access is limited to tours and special programs, which are offered year-round. Wear comfortable shoes to take the 1-1/4-mile tour through the cave. For the more adventurous, the park offers a “wild” cave tour, an off-the-trail adventure to test your physical and mental capabilities. Picnicking and hiking are also options on the surrounding park grounds, and the park offers a full-service deli, snack bar and gift shop.

Something is fishy

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www.tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center



Athens (903) 676-2277
www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc

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McKinney Falls State Park

5808 McKinney Falls Parkway, Austin 78744 📞 (512) 243-1643

GPS Latitude N 30 10 50.66 | Longitude W 97 43 18.84



This former ranch and homestead of Texas Revolutionary War financier and racehorse breeder Thomas McKinney — one of Stephen F. Austin’s “Old 300” — is only 13 miles from the State Capitol in Austin. Designated as a Historic Site on the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, this park’s unique features and resources have provided a scenic setting and ample adventure for centuries of

historic peoples. For modern day adventurers, the park offers camping, mountain biking, hiking, fishing and birding beneath towering cypress and pecan trees on the banks of Onion Creek. Spring brings a profusion of bluebonnets and other wildflowers and an influx of people leaving urban pressures behind to enjoy the serene beauty and wildlife, such as white-tailed deer that roam the grounds. Swimmers find the pool beneath the falls a welcome treat. 📶

Old Tunnel State Park

10619 Old San Antonio Road, Fredericksburg 78624 📞 (866) 978-2287

GPS Latitude N 30.20 24 61 | Longitude W 98.83 07 03



The smallest state park in Texas at just over 16 acres, this once-functioning railroad tunnel is now the seasonal home for up to 3 million Mexican free-tailed bats. While the bats are best viewed between May and October, other activities at this day-use park include birding, interpretive nature walks and stargazing.

Due to the sensitive nature of this park no pets and no smoking are allowed on trails or in viewing areas.


Restrooms are only open in the evenings during bat season.

Pedernales Falls State Park

2585 Park Road 6026, Johnson City 78636 📞 (830) 868-7304

GPS Latitude N 30 18 29.08 | Longitude W 98 15 27.43




A clear, spring-fed river flowing down gently sloping limestone creates the lovely “falls.” While the first three miles, including the falls, are closed to swimming, wading and tubing, other areas of this beautiful river are open to water play. Other spots beckon anglers, while trails through the tree-shaded hills pull bird watchers and hikers away from the water. The park is home to the endangered golden-cheeked warbler in the spring and the indigenous rufous-crowned sparrow year-round. Bird watchers can seclude themselves in a covered viewing and photography blind with feeders and a drip bath. 

(available near HQ building only)

South Llano River State Park

1927 Park Road 73, Junction 76849 📞 (325) 446-3994

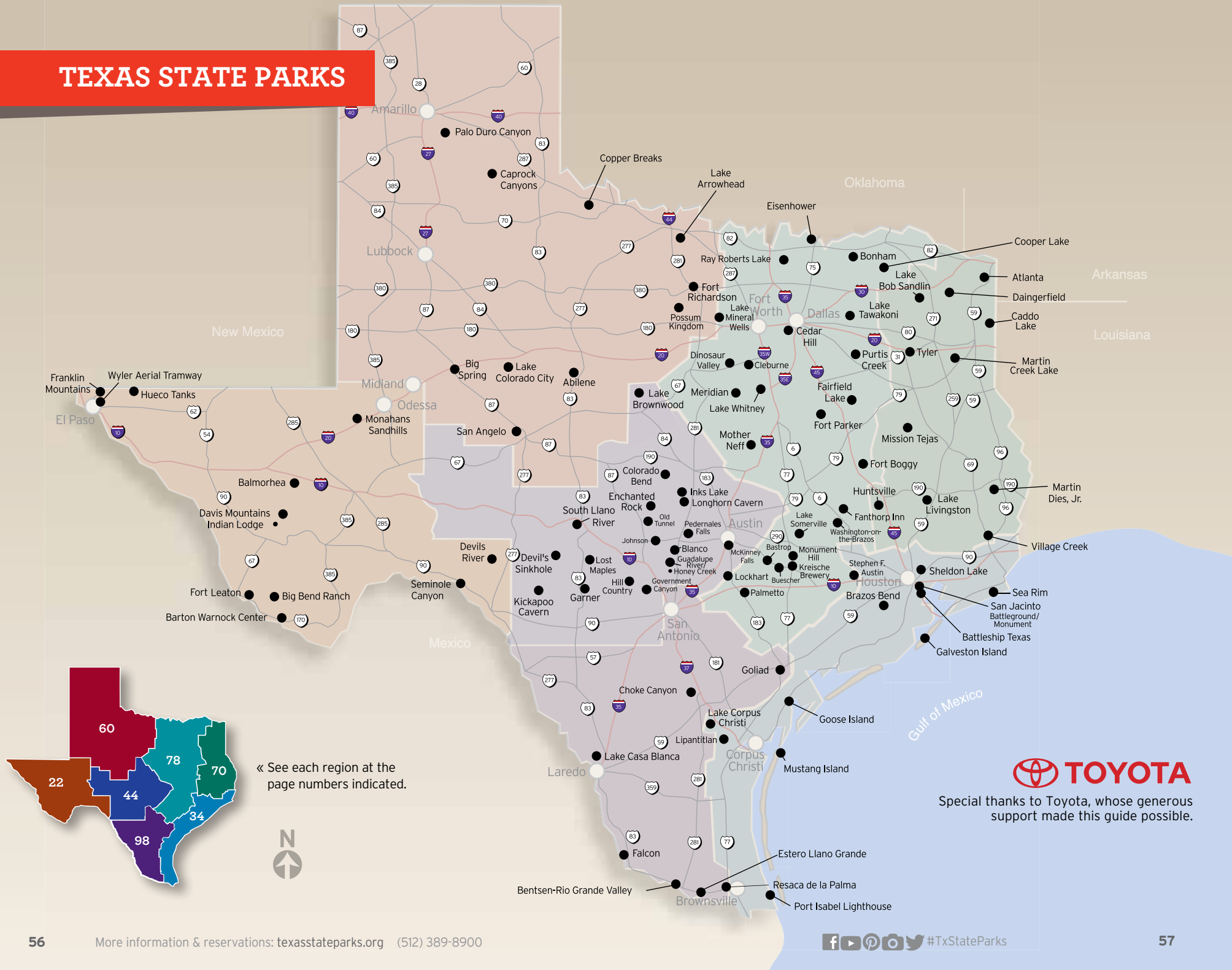
GPS Latitude N 30 26 43.72 | Longitude W 99 48 14.79



This delightful riverside park, known for water and wildlife, is located on the western edge of the Edwards Plateau just south of Junction. Visitors can hike, bike and bird-watch on the trail or experience the South Llano River, deemed by the Lower Colorado River Authority to be one the “most pristine water bodies in the state.” Come enjoy and relax along the riverbank and have a picnic, swim, tube, fish and take kayak/canoe trips. Wildlife watchers can sit in one of four observation blinds to see many varieties of birds and also hike the park’s trails and into the 2,200-acre wooded hills of the former Walter Buck

Wildlife Management Area, now part of the park, for even more great places to see wild turkeys, jackrabbits, deer and numerous bird species. This small, peaceful and family-oriented park offers RV and tent camping and year-round interpretive and educational programs. Park Headquarters is located in the historic Buck homestead, a restored homesite circa the late 1800s.

TEXAS STATE PARKS



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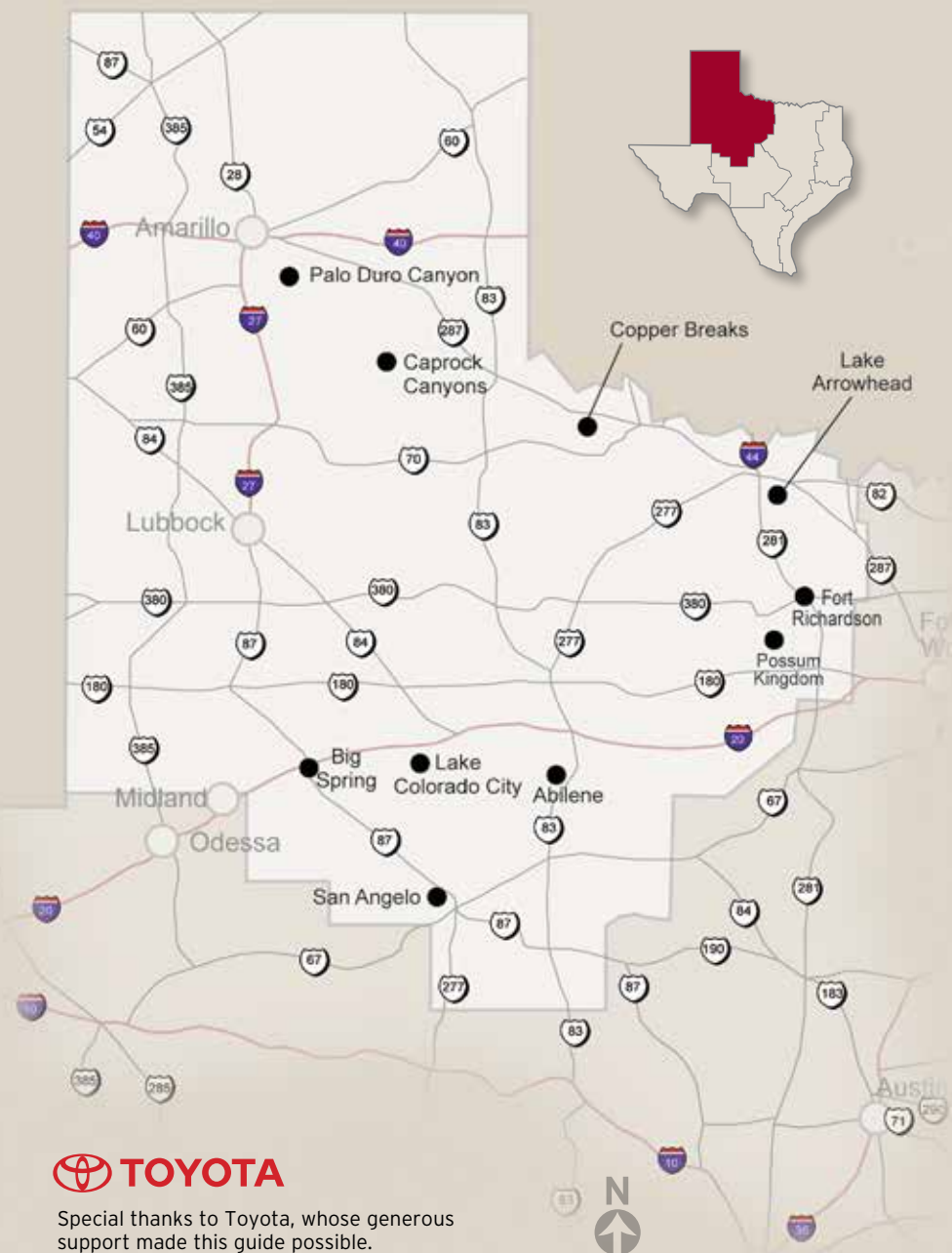
KEEP IT CLEAN: A garbage bag will prevent clutter from accumulating at your feet. Keep wipes and paper towels handy for those inevitable spills and messes. Create zones in the car to keep things organized and easy to find.

STAY HEALTHY: Keep a cooler filled with ice, water and fresh food, or stop at a local farmer's market so you don't rely on fast food. Get out of the car and do some physical exercise *every day*.

MAP IT OUT: Record your journey on an atlas or map. This is a great way for kids to learn an important skill and GPS isn't always available!

WISH YOU WERE HERE: Write a blog from the road or post travel updates on social media to share this special experience with your friends and family.

PANHANDLE PLAINS



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Abilene State Park

150 Park Road 32, Tuscola 79562 ☎ (325) 572-3204

GPS Latitude N 32 14 26.34 | Longitude W 99 52 44.65



Awake to find a wooded oasis on the banks of Elm Creek in the midst of the Texas Midwest, located just south of the city of Abilene. Pecan, red oak, cottonwood and elm trees arch over the campground. A historic water tower and observation deck constructed by the CCC with rust-colored sandstone overlook the large swimming pool, a popular summertime attraction. White-tailed deer and other wildlife can be spotted along a wooded hiking trail. Fishing, hiking, biking, boating and picnicking are available at adjacent Lake Abilene, the newest section of the park. A one-mile nature trail plus an ADA-compliant, 1/2-mile trail are also available at the main park area. 📶

Big Spring State Park

1 Scenic Drive, Big Spring 79720 ☎ (432) 263-4931

GPS Latitude N 32 13 55.99 | Longitude W 101 29 26.48



On the edge of the town of Big Spring, the park sits on a high bluff overlooking the vast Rolling Plains at this northern edge of the Edwards Plateau. Years ago, Comanches made camp here, and cattle drivers and immigrants moving west even carved

“graffiti” into the stone outcropping. Today, a three-mile drive curves along the limestone rim rock ledge around Scenic Mountain and is enjoyed by joggers, walkers and those who come to see the variety of bird species that live here. Views at the top are quite dramatic from the individual picnic tables or from the CCC-built group pavilion.

Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway

850 State Park Road, Quitaque 79255 ☎ (806) 455-1492

GPS Latitude N 34 24 48.31 | Longitude W 101 03 32.54



In the red bluffs near Lake Theo, archeologists unearthed a collection of bison jawbones left by prehistoric hunters in a ceremonial arrangement. A replica of this arrangement is now displayed in the park. The spirit heart of the bison still beats proudly today in the Caprock Canyons, as descendants of the Charles Goodnight bison herd, dubbed the “Official Texas State Bison Herd,” are free to roam within certain boundaries of the park and are protected for future generations to enjoy. This park is also open to campers who can stay in developed sites below the canyon rim or venture out to backcountry sites. A full moon on a quiet night in the remote canyons of this 15,000-acre park is an experience that cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

CAPROCK CANYONS TRAILWAY is another big draw. The trailway, a converted section of old railway, crosses abandoned railroad trestles, goes through Clarity Tunnel and takes hikers, bikers and equestrians overland through these rolling plains for 64 miles of natural beauty. 📶

Copper Breaks State Park

777 Park Road 62, Quanah 79252-7679 ☎ (940) 839-4331

GPS Latitude N 34 06 44.06 | Longitude W 99 44 34.94



The Rolling Plains expand into the legendary wide-open spaces of North Texas, once home to huge grasslands, wild bison and native hunters. This arid land has been eroded by the Pease River into a place of gullies, mesas and juniper breaks filled with wildlife. Frogs, turtles, raccoons and an occasional horned lizard can be seen in the park. Two small lakes (60 and 10 acres) offer fishing year-round for bass, catfish, crappie and sunfish. Equestrian campers can take a 9.5-mile overland trail through the backcountry. This remote park is popular with campers seeking peace and quiet as well as picnicking, hiking, biking, and geocaching. Stargazing is also especially popular at this park, which has been certified at the “Gold-tier” level by the International Dark Sky Association. The visitor’s center includes a park store, lecture room and historical museum. 📶

Fort Richardson State Park, Historic Site and Trailway

228 State Park Road 61, Jacksboro 76458 ☎ (940) 567-3506

GPS Latitude N 33 12 22.14 | Longitude W 98 09 25.09



This multipurpose recreational park also preserves an important historic site. Settlers pushing into North Texas after the Civil War clashed with Comanche and Kiowa Indians, prompting the military to respond with a line of defensive frontier forts. Richardson was the northern anchor. The park features several restored post buildings, which hark back to a soldier's life in the Old West. Surrounding the old fort grounds, the

park offers camping and outdoor activities, including primitive tent sites, full hookup RV sites, wildlife viewing nature trails and fishing in two reservoirs. Guided tours are available during the week; self-guided tours are available on the weekend. Call for tour times or to schedule a group tour.

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR STATE TRAILWAY, part of the Rails-to-Trails program, is a 10-mile hike, bike and equestrian trail with an improved surface that passes through open prairie and along Lost Creek, and circles two reservoirs. A day-use trailhead provides restrooms, a picnic pavilion and tables, a swimming beach and a fishing pier, with convenient parking near Fort Richardson and the town of Jacksboro.

Lake Arrowhead State Park

229 Park Road 63, Wichita Falls 76310 ☎ (940) 528-2211

GPS Latitude N 33 45 30.132 | Longitude W 98 23 42.72



On the gently rolling open plains near the city of Wichita Falls, the 16,400-acre lake brings an influx of anglers eager to hook crappie, white bass, black bass, blue and channel catfish. A nine-lane boat ramp provides ready access to the lake, while a lighted pier and floating boat dock also accommodate anglers. Horseback riders and hikers will find five miles of mostly flat, grassy trails. The 18-hole disc golf course and active prairie dog town make this a unique state park.

Lake Colorado City State Park

4582 F.M. 2836, Colorado City 79512 ☎ (325) 728-3931

GPS Latitude N 32 19 05.80 | Longitude W 100 56 11.04



The lake provides an ideal habitat for many species of birds and wildlife, attracting bird watchers and nature photographers. Canoeing and kayaking are also popular activities with park visitors; kayaks are available for rent. The quarried sandstone, limited-

service cabins fit right in with the reddish and rocky landscape while providing a climate-controlled interior. A covered overhang on each cabin shelters the picnic table from the sun and affords guests outdoor meals with a view. 📶

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

11450 Park Road 5, Canyon 79015 📞 (806) 488-2227

GPS Latitude N 34 59 04.84 | Longitude W 101 42 06.51



One of the most renowned destinations in Texas, this mysterious terra-cotta badland, referred to as the “Grand Canyon of Texas,” calls out to the adventurous to come exploring. A daylong horseback ride or challenging hike will take you to the famous Lighthouse rock formation. Or drive to the top of the canyon and take in the breathtaking view from the overlook. The full-service park offers primitive and

developed campsites as well as rock cabins and fully furnished CCC-constructed cabins. Longhorns still graze at the park, too. The popular outdoor musical “Texas” is performed in the park’s amphitheater every summer. 📶

Possum Kingdom State Park

3901 St Park Rd 33, Caddo 76429 📞 (940) 549-1803

GPS Latitude N 32 52 25.17 | Longitude W 98 33 34.20



Located in the rugged canyon country of the Brazos River Valley, Possum Kingdom holds 20,000 surface-acres of some of the clearest, bluest water in the Southwest. The clarity is especially good for scuba diving as well as swimming, boating, skiing and fishing. Anglers pull in largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, white bass and sunfish. Towering rock formations, part of the Palo Pinto

Mountains, give the shoreline near the dam and along the lower lake an unusual landscape. A marina and store in the park rents non-motorized boats and covered boat slips, and sells a variety of supplies and souvenir items in addition to motorboat fuel. 📶

San Angelo State Park

3900-2 Mercedes Road, San Angelo 76901 📞 (325) 949-4757

GPS Latitude N 31 27 16.45 | Longitude W 100 29 33.93



The park is located at the transition of the Edwards Plateau ecoregion, the Rolling Plains natural region and the Trans-Pecos desert. It embraces a diverse mixture of vegetation including riparian bottomland trees such as pecan, hackberry and mesquite, which are more common in the arid plains. The park is also home to the Official Texas State Longhorn Herd. The

heated and air-conditioned limited-service cabins, open-air group pavilions and equestrian campsites offer a range of options to complement the more than 50 miles of equestrian, hiking and biking trails. 📶

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PINEYWOODS



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Atlanta State Park

927 Park Road 42, Atlanta 75551 ☎ (903) 796-6476

GPS Latitude N 33 13 50.66 | Longitude W 94 14 58.77



Located on Wright Patman Lake near Texarkana, this charming, wooded park has a west-facing shoreline that allows visitors to sit in the peaceful evening and watch brilliant red and deep blue sunsets over the water. The 20,300-surface-acre reservoir invites waterskiing, boating and fishing. Beautiful hiking and biking trails meander through the woodlands and offer great opportunities for wildlife and bird viewing.

The park's natural setting is a wooded habitat that is home to many different species of birds. Visitors can also enjoy great fishing. Catfish and crappie are common catches. Come stay for a night or two and have a unique Pineywoods experience. The park offers RV and tent camping, fishing, swimming, boating, interpretive programs and many other recreational opportunities.

Caddo Lake State Park

245 Park Road 2, Karnack 75661 ☎ (903) 679-3351

GPS Latitude N 32 40 49.33 | Longitude W 94 10 34.75



Caddo Lake, the only natural lake in Texas, was created by a mass of trees and flood debris known historically as the Great Raft of the Red River. It obstructed the river channel for more than 100 miles above Shreveport, Louisiana, until 1874, when it was successfully removed to clear the channel for navigation. But the lake slowly drained away, leaving a swamp. A modern dam maintains the lake, and today, canoeists, anglers and boaters can explore the picturesque maze of bayous — thick with ancient bald cypress trees. The park includes some lovely, fully-restored CCC pine-log cabins that make for an authentic “cabin in the woods” experience.

Daingerfield State Park

455 Park Road 17, Daingerfield 75638 ☎ (903) 645-2921

GPS Latitude N 33 00 46.69 | Longitude W 94 41 26.62



Stay in recently renovated CCC cabins, or camp beneath towering loblolly pines and dense oaks that edge the clear and calm, 80-acre lake in this lovely park. Whether it's a sandwich and beverage aboard a rented paddleboat or a picnic spread in the grass on a sunny day, food simply tastes better in this scenic and relaxing setting. The park's facilities, restrooms and lodge have all been recently renovated. A park store has also been added to accommodate camping and souvenir needs. 📶

Huntsville State Park

565 Park Road 40 West, Huntsville 77342 ☎ (936) 295-5644

GPS Latitude N 30 37 42.20 | Longitude W 95 31 33.09



The Civilian Conservation Corps, which helped build state and national parks all over the United States, accepted all citizens, a remarkable decision for the times. As a result, African-American companies were formed to help develop parks and public lands, including Huntsville State Park. The park quickly became a favorite of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. Located among loblolly and shortleaf pines, the park boasts an extensive trail system, and equestrian stables are conveniently located on-site. The park also has a 210-acre lake, Lake Raven, with canoes for rent and plentiful wildlife and birds, as well as great fishing. A CCC-built group facility is available for rent for weddings, parties and reunions. 📶

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

341 State Park Road 2117, Pittsburg 75686 ☎ (903) 572-5531

GPS Latitude N 33 03 14.54 | Longitude W 95 05 56.76



Foliage on the sweet gum, hickory, maple and other hardwood trees turns to red and gold here in the fall. The lake offers great bass fishing, for which East Texas is famous. And the park's proximity to Interstate 30 makes it a popular destination for residents of the DFW Metroplex. Visitors to the park enjoy a host of recreational activities, from fishing and boating to hiking and wildlife viewing of animals such as bobcats, white-tailed deer and bald eagles. Campers can choose from water/electric sites, screened shelters or limited-use cabins.

Lake Livingston State Park

300 Park Road 65, Livingston 77351 📞 (936) 365-2201

GPS Latitude N 30 39 23.65 | Longitude W 95 00 05.14



Located on the shores of a huge 83,000-surface-acre lake fed by the Trinity River, with three boat ramps this Southeast Texas park is an angler's delight. Catfish and white bass are plentiful, and in 1976 a 114-pound flathead catfish set a state record. The park's lighted fishing pier and tackle loaner program provide beginning anglers the opportunity to participate. Horse stables offer terrestrial alternatives to water-based activities: horseback trail riding in the pines by the hour. Or, take a packaged trip that includes meals. The park offers a wide range of campsites that include 77 full hookup sites

and unique screened shelters, some of which are ADA-compliant. An air-conditioned activity center for up to 50 people is welcome in the summer heat, as is a cool plunge into the park's crystal-clear lake.

Martin Creek Lake State Park

9515 County Road 2181D, Tatum 75691 📞 (903) 836-4336

GPS Latitude N 32 16 40.80 | Longitude W 94 33 57.56



A small island in the lake, reached via a footbridge, has primitive campsites for backpackers wanting a quiet retreat. There are limited campsites available on the island, so be sure to make a reservation. Because the lake water cools a power plant, the water stays warm, making this an excellent channel cat and bass fishery, even during cold-weather months.

Bluegill and redear sunfish are also present in high numbers. The park has a lighted fishing pier and boat ramps. Stay overnight in this unique Pineywoods park in cabins, cottages or enclosed shelters as well. Enjoy tent camping, or park your RV for a spell and make yourself at home.

Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

634 Park Road 48 South, Jasper 75951 📞 (409) 384-5231

GPS Latitude N 30 50 47.47 | Longitude W 94 09 56.48



Pitch your tent or park your RV on the shores of this reservoir under lofty pine, oak and beech trees in the northern corner of the Big Thicket. The mix of habitats at this biological crossroads brings in arid country critters such as roadrunners, as well as swamp dwellers like alligators. Boat ramps and rentals help get you to Lake B.A. Steinhagen, and a lighted fishing pier lets you fish along the shore. Channel, blue and

flathead catfish can all be caught here and spotted bass can be caught in the nearby Angelina River. Crappie fishing reigns in the spring. There are several beginner-level mountain biking trails, and for paddling enthusiasts, four marked paddling trails on the lake and river offer beginner and intermediate visitors access to the water. Both bicycles and canoes can be rented at the park. The park's environmental education center is worth a visit, and the group hall hosts many family gatherings every year. 📶

Mission Tejas State Park

120 State Park Road 44, Grapeland 75844 ☎ (936) 687-2394

GPS Latitude N 31 32 33.28 | Longitude W 95 13 55.56



The park commemorates the first Spanish mission in East Texas. Fearing the French would claim New World dominion over lands that Spain wished to control, Spanish leaders in Mexico mounted an expedition to settle the Pineywoods in 1690. It was this pioneering effort at mission-building that resulted in the first contact with the Caddoan-speaking Hasinai people. Chancing upon an East Texas farming village, the Spanish explorers were

greeted in the Caddoan language with a word that sounded like “tayshas.” It meant “friends” or “allies,” but it was recorded as a place name, becoming the Spanish word Tejas and the English word Texas. This 659-acre park provides a relaxing retreat in the Neches River uplands for campers, anglers, picnickers and hikers. El Camino Real Historic Trail traverses the park, enabling visitors to walk in Davy Crockett’s footsteps.

Tyler State Park

789 Park Road 16, Tyler 75706-9141 ☎ (903) 597-5338

GPS Latitude N 32 28 55.81 | Longitude W 95 16 59.91



Camping, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking and biking — there are many ways to enjoy this quiet retreat that surrounds a clear spring-fed lake located in the relaxing beauty of East Texas, near the city of Tyler. Timeless craftsmanship in the stonework and wooden buildings built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) makes the park a historic treasure.

Hike and bike on approximately 14 miles of popular trails or rent a boat for a leisurely tour of the lake. Tyler State Park also offers birding, geocaching, and is the only state park with a permanent orienteering course. You might see deer, raccoon, squirrels, bobcats, coyote, opossum or many flowering plants, such as dogwood, redbud, standing cypress, coreopsis or purple coneflower. The clear water of the 64-acre lake is excellent for year-round fishing, swimming and scuba diving. Full RV hookups, tent sites, screened shelters and group facilities are available, as are recently renovated limited-use cabins. 📶

Village Creek State Park

8854 Park Road 74 (off Alma Drive), Lumberton 77657

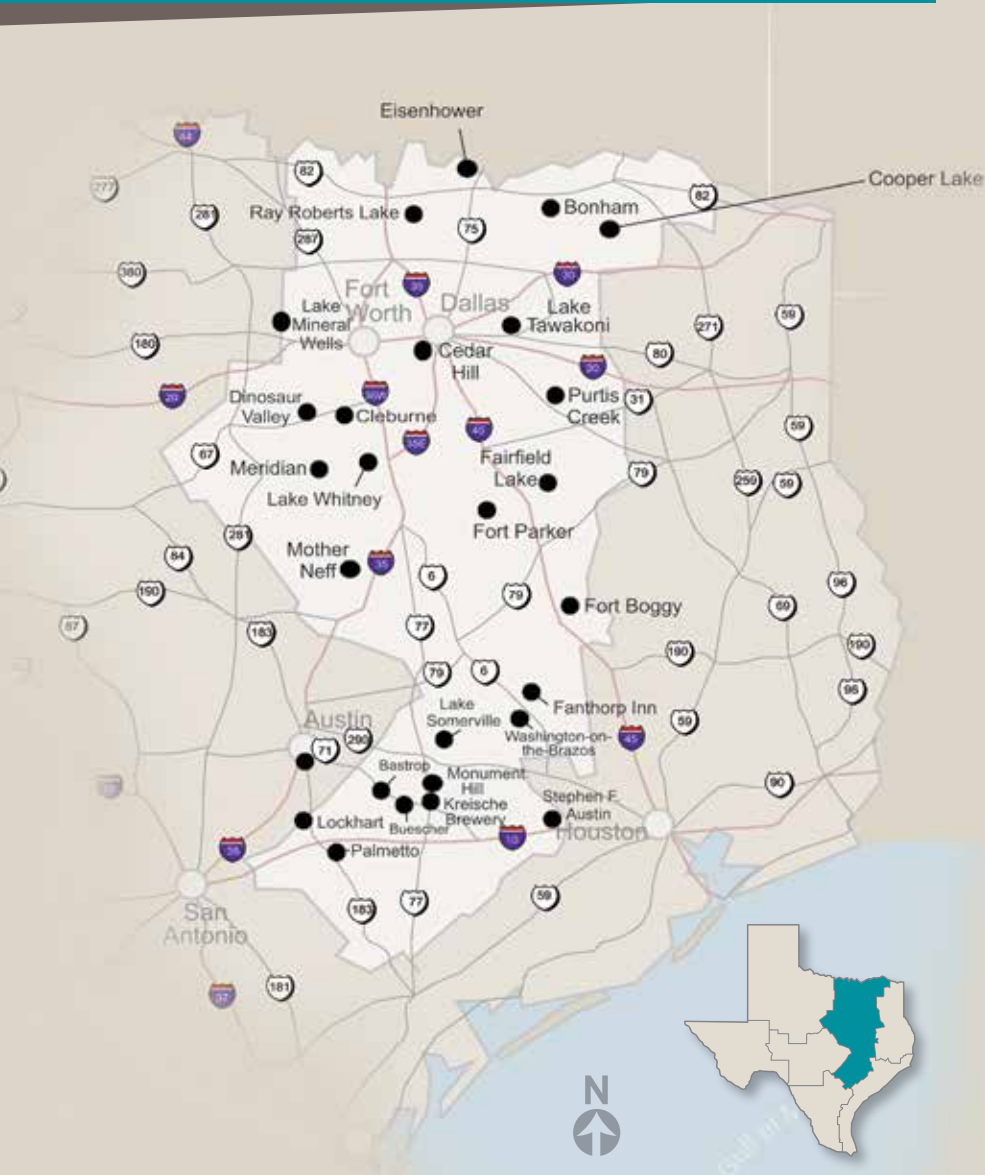
☎ (409) 755-7322

GPS Latitude N 30 15 03.34 | Longitude W 94 10 40.15
(FRONT GATES: Latitude N 30 14 47.5 | Longitude W 094 10 52)



Village Creek State Park reveals a primeval world of backwater sloughs and swamps, carnivorous plants, various mammals and water snakes, colorful birds and hundreds of species of flowering plants. They all thrive in this region known as the Big Thicket, a pine-and-hardwood forest so dense that the early pioneers barely attempted to settle it. This ecological splendor once comprised more than 3 million acres of dense forest and bottomland. A small portion is set aside as a park with eight miles of marked trails, interpretive programs, camping facilities and access to paddling on wide, slow-moving Village Creek. A beautiful overnight facility perfectly suited for families is available for rent at this park.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Bastrop State Park

100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop 78602 ☎ (512) 321-2101

GPS Latitude N 30 06 36.61 | Longitude W 97 17 12.98



Located just east of Austin, Bastrop is set among the “Lost Pines,” believed to have once been part of an extensive pine-oak forest in Central Texas. The fully-equipped cabins and most group facilities were constructed by the CCC in the 1930s. Because they were built using local timber and sandstone, these historic buildings blend in with the landscape. In September 2011, a wildfire affected 96 percent of the park but damaged only two small overlook structures. While the forest is still recovering from the wildfire, all campsites and facilities and most hiking trails are open to the public, and overall, the park is doing well. In addition to nature study and fishing along the banks of the small park lake, the park also features a large, oval-shaped, CCC-built swimming pool. 📶

While the forest is still recovering from the wildfire, all campsites and facilities and most hiking trails are open to the public, and overall, the park is doing well. In addition to nature study and fishing along the banks of the small park lake, the park also features a large, oval-shaped, CCC-built swimming pool. 📶

Bonham State Park

1363 State Park 24, Bonham 75418 📞 (903) 583-5022

GPS Latitude N 33 32 48.15 | Longitude W 96 08 40.27



Escape to the laid-back atmosphere of this quiet park surrounding a 65-acre lake, located just northeast of the Dallas metro area. Water activities include boating, canoeing, swimming and fishing. A fishing pier provides visitors with an added opportunity to fish. A gently rolling terrace is dominated by tall, mature trees, making it perfect for hiking, walking, picnicking or just relaxing. Developed campsites and a group

complex enhance overnight stays. Raccoons, squirrels, rabbits and numerous songbirds are among the wildlife in the park. A newly renovated indoor complex sleeps 94 and includes a game room. 📶

Buescher State Park

100 Park Road 1E, Smithville 78957 📞 (512) 237-2241

GPS Latitude N 30 02 20.90 | Longitude W 97 09 29.66



Buescher State Park is joined to Bastrop State Park by a 12-mile road that is perfect for biking or a leisurely drive. Both parks are located in the “Lost Pines,” believed to have once been part of an extensive pine-oak forest in Central Texas. Rent canoes and hit the water, or hike and bike along the 7.7-mile loop trail through the forest. Fishing is excellent in the small

woodland lake that is stocked for anglers. Camp in the peaceful quiet along the lake or at campsites set back in the forest. A CCC-built group facility is also available for rent, as are three limited-service cabins.

Cedar Hill State Park

1570 West F.M. 1382, Cedar Hill 75104 ☎ (972) 291-3900

GPS Latitude N 32 37 18.19 | Longitude W 96 58 44.86



Minutes southwest of downtown Dallas, this park has 10 lanes of boat ramps giving access to the 7,500-acre Joe Pool Reservoir. Crowds are easily accommodated at the more than 300 developed and walk-in campsites. Over 15 miles of hiking and biking trails, maintained by the Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, crisscross the varied terrain and are suitable for novices and experts alike.

Because the park was developed at the site of a 19th-century farm, a number of buildings have been restored to recreate the old Penn Farm as it was before the DFW Metroplex grew so large. Penn Farm is open daily for self-guided tours that take visitors through the old barns and outbuildings. 📶

Cleburne State Park

5800 Park Road 21, Cleburne 76033 📞 (817) 645-4215

GPS Latitude N 32 15 8.46 | Longitude W 97 32 58.63



Wildlife abounds at this park, which is ideal for camping or day use, located just outside the city of Cleburne, southwest of the Fort Worth area. Animals scurry through the woods, and in early spring, bluebonnets blanket the open fields, creating picture-perfect picnic settings. Hike-and-bike trails zigzag through limestone hills, canyons and ruggedly beautiful wooded terrain. Enjoy the clear, spring-fed lake created by an earthen dam with a charming, three-level spillway, or catch a glimpse of beavers as they build a dam. 📶

Cooper Lake State Park

Doctors Creek Unit, 1664 F.M. 1529 South, Cooper 75432 ☎ (903) 395-3100

GPS Latitude N 33 20 57.08 | Longitude W 95 39 52.02

South Sulphur Unit, 1690 F.M. 3505, Sulphur Springs 75482 ☎ (903) 945-5256

GPS Latitude N 33 17 16.1 | Longitude W 95 39 28.1



Cooper Lake offers a variety of both land- and water-based recreational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy the breathtaking sunsets and spectacular scenery by boat, foot or horseback. Or, picnic under towering oak trees, swim at the

sandy beach, explore developed trails, or boat and fish on the 19,300-acre lake. Overnights can choose from cabins, shelters and developed or primitive campsites, including equestrian sites for horses. Both the South Sulphur and Doctors Creek units offer shelters with amenities. Wildlife watchers are often rewarded with sightings of bald eagles, white pelicans, wild turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons and beavers. Together, both park units encompass 3,026 acres and some 31 miles of shoreline; canoe rentals have been added as well. 📶 *South Sulphur Unit only*

Dinosaur Valley State Park

1629 Park Road 59, Glen Rose 76043 ☎ (254) 897-4588

GPS Latitude N 32 14 46.50 | Longitude W 97 48 48.13



Take the kids to put their little feet in the world-renowned dinosaur footprints in the Paluxy riverbed. The trackway dates to the Cretaceous period 113 million years ago and was an important clue for paleontological theories about how and where dinosaurs walked. Since the riverbed tracks are only visible when the water is low, a replica in the park's exhibit is also available for viewing. Great hiking and biking trails meander through

the uplands with trailheads near the campgrounds. This park enjoys year-round popularity with mountain bikers, campers and RVers.

Eisenhower State Park

50 Park Road 20, Denison 75020-4878 ☎ (903) 465-1956

GPS Latitude N 33 48 37.11 | Longitude W 96 35 59.92



The park's heavily forested shoreline of rolling hills and limestone bluffs has been called Texas' North Coast. It overlooks Lake Texoma, the 89,000-acre watery playground for yachts, sailboats and every form of water-based recreation. Visitors can access the lake via boat ramps and shorelines. Rentals and marina services are provided by a privately operated marina located in the park. Visitors can hike and bike on scenic trails that border the lakeshore. An ATV trail offers enthusiasts a place to ride along the wooded hills of the park's backcountry. Shaded campsites accommodate RVs

and tents as well as screened shelters, group facilities, and a limited use cabin. Eisenhower welcomes travelers coming from the north, as it is located along the Texas-Oklahoma state line, but it is also within an hour of the Dallas-Forth Worth Metroplex. Lake Texoma is world renowned for fishing. You can catch striped bass, smallmouth and catfish along park shorelines. 📶

Fairfield Lake State Park

123 State Park Road 64, Fairfield 75840 📞 (903) 389-4514

GPS Latitude N 31 45 55.11 | Longitude W 96 04 23.37



The waters of Fairfield Lake are warm because they cool an electrical power plant, and that means fantastic winter fishing from November through February. Within a few hours' drive of Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and Waco, the park offers lakefront camping and walk-in primitive campsites. In the winter, one can spot bald eagles diving for their favorite food. 📶

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

579 South Main Street, Anderson 77830 📞 (936) 873-2633

GPS Latitude N 30 28 58.62 | Longitude W 95 59 02.11



The carefully restored Fanthorp Inn offers visitors an opportunity to walk through a historic inn that served as a stagecoach stop. A communal dining table is set for a meal, frozen in time, conveying a real sense of the traveler's life in the 1850s. A replica of a Concord stagecoach completes the scene. Picnic tables are set under towering trees on the lawns surrounding the inn, ideal for an afternoon outing.

Fort Boggy State Park

4994 Highway 75 South, Centerville 75833 📞 (903) 344-1116

GPS Latitude N 31 11 14.38 | Longitude W 95 58 28.77



Spend the day picnicking, fishing or just taking in the natural beauty of this quiet and serene day-use park. Set beside a picturesque lake well-suited to canoes, kayaks or small boats, the park has a beautiful beach and nature trails, as well as an ADA-compliant, open-air picnic pavilion. The park is conveniently

located just off IH-45 between Dallas and Houston.

Fort Parker State Park

194 Park Road 28, Mexia 76667 📞 (254) 562-5751

GPS Latitude N 31 35 32.56 | Longitude W 96 31 35.79




Located between Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Austin, this wooded park features miles of trails and an unforgettable hand-built dam across the Navasota River. Visitors enjoy spectacular sunsets and stunning scenery while boating on the lake and river or sunbathing at the popular swimming area. Wildflowers abound from March to early June. The park's 96-person group facility is a popular venue for reunions, youth camps and other overnight gatherings. Wildlife sightings include great blue heron, white-tailed deer, bald eagles, beavers, white pelicans, raccoons, and others. Canoe, kayak and paddleboat rentals, as well as fishing in the river and the park's 750-acre lake, ensure plenty of water fun for all.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway

100 Park Road 71, Mineral Wells 76067 📞 (940) 328-1171

GPS Latitude N 32 48 53.28 | Longitude W 98 02 18.96



In addition to the lake's fishing and swimming, adventurers with proper equipment can climb and rappel on cliffs. Swimmers can cool off at the swimming beach, while anglers and others rent kayaks, canoes and rowboats to cruise the wonderfully tranquil lake. Located within an hour's drive of Fort Worth, the lake's south side also offers 100 picnic sites for day use, as well as access to the trailway. Cowboy poetry and stargazing are some of the programs offered at the Lone Star Amphitheater. Head for Penitentiary Hollow, where stone steps laid more than 70 years ago wind through a lakeside labyrinth of giant boulders, rock walls and narrow canyons. An overlook on a nearby bluff affords stunning views of the 646-acre lake. 

LAKE MINERAL WELLS
STATE TRAILWAY

A 20-mile-long, multiuse trail converted from an abandoned railroad right-of-way runs from just northwest of Weatherford to downtown Mineral Wells. Bring your bike, your horse or your own hooves!

Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway

Birch Creek Unit, 14222 Park Road 57, Somerville 77879 ☎ (979) 535-7763

GPS Latitude N 30 18 35.82 | Longitude W 96 38 06.75

Nails Creek Unit, 6280 F.M. 180, Ledbetter 78946 ☎ (979) 289-2392

GPS Latitude N 30 17 26.59 | Longitude W 96 40 01.27



Located between the cities of Austin and College Station, the two units of Lake Somerville State Park make for great family getaways. Roads and trails wind through meadows and woodland campsites. The shallow swimming area at Nails Creek unit is wonderful for small children, and canoes and kayaks are available to rent. The Birch Creek unit group trailer area offers camping for families or friends traveling together. Birch Creek is known for its fishing and lake access, while Nails Creek is a favorite among equestrians.

The Lake Somerville Trailway System connects the two units with 13 miles of trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, backpacking, birding, outdoor photography and nature study. Campgrounds for equestrians and backpackers are located along the trailway. 📶

Lake Tawakoni State Park

10822 F.M. 2475, Wills Point 75169 ☎ (903) 560-7123

GPS Latitude N 32 50 31.12 | Longitude W 95 59 37.53



This park is one of the newer overnight camping parks added to the Texas State Parks system. The 376-acre park sits along the shores of the 36,700-acre Lake Tawakoni reservoir with five miles of shoreline and a four-lane boat ramp located in a picturesque, hardwood sylvan setting, just east of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The park features 78 campsites, two large picnic areas with tables and grills and more than eight miles of hike-and-bike trails. It also has a primitive group area that can be reserved for up to 48 people. The park's native prairie grasslands are rare for East Texas and serve as habitat for over 250 bird species. 📶

Lake Whitney State Park

433 Farm to Market 1244, Whitney 76692 ☎ (254) 694-3793

GPS Latitude N 31 55 52.60 | Longitude W 97 21 24.73



Boating, water skiing, sailing, fishing, scuba diving and swimming take center stage at this 23,000-surface-acre reservoir with the park's boat ramps, lakefront beach, shoreline fishing and record-size catfish, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass and striper. Camp and enjoy hiking, biking

or birding. Some 194 species of birds have been identified here. 📶

Lockhart State Park

2012 State Park Road, Lockhart 78644 ☎ (512) 398-3479

GPS Latitude N 29 51 19.58 | Longitude W 97 41 51.93

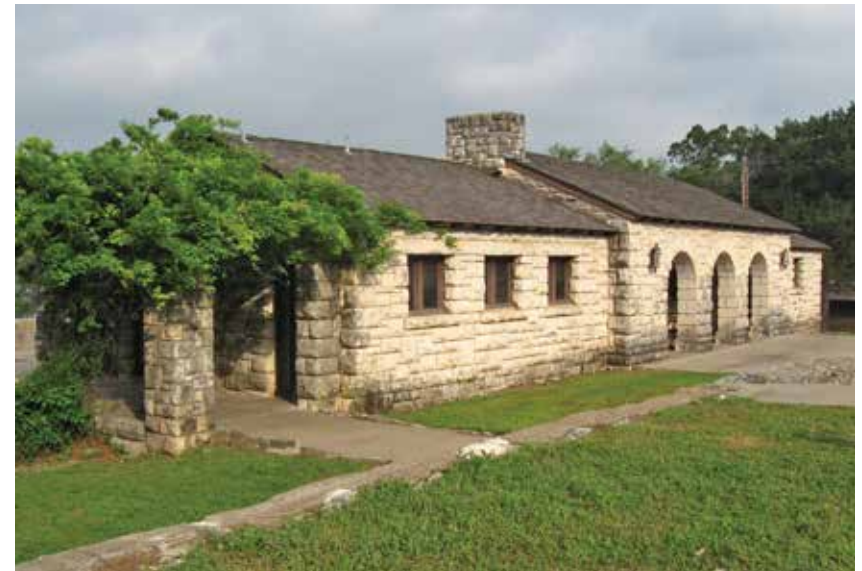


Located just south of Austin in the beautiful blackland prairie region, this charming park has something for everyone. The large, secluded hilltop recreation hall — built by the CCC in the 1930s — is a perfect setting for reunions, parties and weddings. For the golf enthusiast, there is a quaint nine-hole golf course (club and cart rental available). Other amenities include a campground, a swimming pool, miles of trails and a creek for anglers. 📶

Meridian State Park

173 Park Road 7, Meridian 76665 ☎ (254) 435-2536

GPS Latitude N 31 53 26.73 | Longitude W 97 41 50.92



This wooded 504-acre park prides itself on its relaxing atmosphere. The park surrounds 72-acre Lake Meridian, which has excellent fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, catfish, crappie and bream. Hiking trails take visitors into peaceful, serene areas of the park to view limestone outcroppings, nature and abundant wildlife. Birders enjoy a chance to catch a glimpse of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. The park offers campsites ranging from 50-amp full hookup pull through

sites to drive-up primitive sites, as well as 18 screened shelters and a day-use dining hall great for business meetings and small reunions. Reservations in advance are highly recommended. 📶

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites

414 State Loop 92, La Grange 78945-5733 ☎ (979) 968-5658

GPS Latitude N 29 53 16.58 | Longitude W 96 52 34.50



Visit the monument dedicated to the 1842 Dawson and Mier expedition, famous for the legendary “black bean” incident in Texas history; Mexican President Santa Anna decreed that captives draw one of the 17 black beans from a pot that also contained 159 white beans. Those drawing black beans were executed. The monument is a tomb for Republic of Texas patriots, recognizing fallen heroes. A beautiful view from the bluff overlooking the winding Colorado River is one of the many stops on a nature trail that connects the monument and brewery historic sites. Heinrich

Kreische, a master stonemason, immigrated to Texas in 1846 and purchased this property overlooking the Colorado River near La Grange. During the 1860s, Kreische changed his occupation to that of a brewer and started one of the first commercial breweries in Texas. Picnic on the beautiful park lawn and tour the Kreische House and the ruins of the brewery.

Mother Neff State Park

1680 S.H. 236, Moody 76557-3317 ☎ (254) 853-2389

GPS Latitude N 31 18 57.63 | Longitude W 97 28 17.18



Mother Neff State Park is named for Isabella Eleanor Neff (mother of Texas Governor Pat M. Neff), who donated the land that would form the nucleus of the park. Later donations increased it to form a thin rectangle of varied terrain and vegetation. Recent acquisitions have added additional parkland along the Leon River. Almost five miles of hiking trails covering three ecosystems traverse the park. Sites with water, electric and sewer are available.

Palmetto State Park

78 Park Road 11 South, Gonzales 78629 ☎ (830) 672-3266

GPS Latitude N 29 35 48.91 | Longitude W 97 35 06.14



Named for the dwarf palmetto plants found throughout the park, this 289-acre riparian refuge resembles the tropics more than the surrounding brush country. This botanical wonderland attracts more than 200 bird species. A historic pump forces artesian water into a 1930s-era cistern and water tower for release into a swampy woodlands along a nature trail. The San Marcos River flows through the park, making it a perfect put-in point for canoe trips that end in Gonzales. The park also boasts a great network of trails and boardwalks. 📶

Purtis Creek State Park

14225 F.M. 316, Eustace 75124 ☎ (903) 425-2332

GPS Latitude N 32 21 13.93 | Longitude W 95 59 36.88



This large 1,584-acre park is known for its heavily-wooded, well-shaded campsites and its exceptional bass fishing. The clear-water impoundment was actually designed for trophy largemouth and has catch-and-release regulations for this species. The 355-surface-acre lake is limited to 50 boats at a time. Kayak, canoe and paddleboat rentals are also available at the park store.

Ray Roberts Lake State Park



Set amid a mixed forest and prairie environment, this state park has numerous subunits with access to the 30,000-surface-acre reservoir. In addition to typical state park campsites, the sections include everything from boat ramps to a full-service marina, group pavilions, a lodge with hotel-type rooms, numerous mountain bike trails, primitive and equestrian camping, and great fishing opportunities.

Park Units of Ray Roberts Lake SP

Isle du Bois

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 ☎ (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 54.43 | Longitude W 97 00 50.68

A full-service park with a six-lane boat ramp. It also has equestrian and walk-in campsites, a swimming beach and a lighted fishing pier. 📶

Johnson Branch

100 PW 4153, Valley View 76272-7411 ☎ (940) 637-2294

GPS Latitude N 33 25 46.88 | Longitude W 97 03 23.29

A full-service park with a four-lane boat ramp. It also has walk-in campsites, a swimming beach and accessible trails that are ADA-compliant.

Jordan Park

2200 F.M. 1192, Pilot Point 76258 ☎ (940) 686-0261

GPS Latitude N 33 24 02.6 | Longitude W 97 00 19.9

Home to Lantana Lodge, a luxurious lodge overlooking the lake. The modern hotel has 30 rooms and a conference center that can accommodate up to 100 people. There's also a four-lane boat ramp for lake access.

Ray Roberts Greenbelt Corridor

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 ☎ (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 3.90 | Longitude W 97 2 6.51

A 20-mile trail system meanders along the heavily wooded banks of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. It is suited to hiking, equestrian trail riding and paddling.

Sanger Marina Unit

1399 Marina Circle, Sanger 76226 ☎ (940) 458-7343

GPS Latitude N 33 22 39.6 | Longitude W 97 06 27.4

A full-service marina, Lake Ray Roberts Marina, is located here and features four boat lanes, boat rentals, a fishing barge and courtesy dock.

Stephen F. Austin State Park

Park Road 38, San Felipe 77473-0125 📞 (979) 885-3613

GPS Latitude N 29 48 43.09 | Longitude W 96 06 28.90



Located in the birthplace of Anglo-American settlement in Texas, the park occupies moss-draped pecan bottoms along the Brazos River and the Mexican land granted to Stephen F. Austin, the “Father of Texas.” This historic 1824 settlement was also home to Texas’ first English-language newspaper, the first Texas postal system, and the original Texas Rangers. The park offers a wide variety of camping including 38 full hookup sites,

38 water-only sites, 25 walk-in primitive campsites, 19 screened shelters, one limited service cabin, group facilities and a day-use recreation hall. Opportunities abound for birding and wildlife viewing, fishing along the riverbank, and hiking and biking along about six miles of trails. Plan to visit nearby San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, operated by the Texas Historical Commission.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

23400 Park Road #12, Washington 77880 📞 (936) 878-2214

GPS Latitude N 30 19 32.77 | Longitude W 96 09 15.94



While Santa Anna’s army besieged the Alamo in March 1836, Texans met in an unfinished building at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare independence from Mexico. Two weeks later, the delegates adopted a constitution for the Republic of Texas in the middle of the night. Today, visitors enjoy the many exhibits at the Visitor Center and at the Star of the Republic Museum,

which houses a collection of more than 20,000 artifacts. Visitors can also tour a replica of the building where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. A conference center, group meeting facilities and two pavilions are available by reservation. This picturesque park is also a favorite spot for picnics. 📶



BARRINGTON LIVING HISTORY FARM is a working 1850s cotton farm in the Brazos Valley. Using the home and journals of Dr. Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, period-costumed interpreters work the farm as it was done long ago so folks can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the 19th century.



S O U T H T E X A S P L A I N S

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

2800 S. Bentsen Palm Drive, Mission 78572 📞 (956) 584-9156

GPS Latitude N 26 11 01.28 | Longitude W 98 22 49.80



Access into the park is on foot, by bike or tram. Visitors can pick up the latest field guides or browse through a wide selection of souvenirs and nature-inspired merchandise at the Algunas Plumas gift shop. Stop by the La Familia Nature Center to see the latest nature displays or chat with park naturalists or volunteers about what wildlife is being seen in the park.



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S O U T H T E X A S P L A I N S

Choke Canyon State Park

358 Recreation Road 8, Calliham 78007 📞 (361) 786-3868



This park complex includes two separate park units on the shores of the 26,000-surface-acre reservoir, offering access to a wide expanse of water. That, coupled with mild weather, invites boating, waterskiing and fishing year-round. Fishing at Choke Canyon reservoir is regarded as some of the finest in Texas. Largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish and alligator gar have healthy populations here. An abundance of wildlife offers visitors the chance to see white-tailed deer, wild turkey, javelina and even alligators. The park's facilities also include a gymnasium, recreation hall, dining hall and group picnic pavilions. 📶

Calliham Park Unit

GPS Latitude N 28 27 57.81 | Longitude W 98 21 14.58

In addition to campsites and group pavilions, the park has a basketball court, tennis court and baseball diamond. An auditorium with dining hall, dressing rooms and a stage are available for rent. The park has nature trails that provide great birding opportunities to view a diverse variety of species.

South Shore Park Unit (Day use only)

GPS Latitude N 28 28 2.31 | Longitude W 98 14 47.11

This day-use section has a two-lane and a six-lane boat ramp and a lighted fish cleaning table.

Estero Llano Grande State Park

3301 S. International Blvd. (F.M. 1015), Weslaco 78596 ☎ (956) 565-3919

GPS Latitude N 26 07 35.0796 | Longitude W 97 57 23.4648



Water is the magic ingredient for attracting wildlife in South Texas, and Estero Llano Grande State Park offers something special as the largest wetlands environment in the World Birding Center network. At the geographic center of the Rio Grande Valley, this 200-acre refuge in Weslaco attracts a spectacular array of South Texas wildlife with its varied landscape of shallow lakes, woodlands and thorn forest. Explore the park's many trails, boardwalks, pavilions and observation decks. While you are there, visit the park store, Humadales Alegres, which features unique souvenirs as well as wetland, butterfly, bird and other wildlife merchandise. A group camp facility, which includes a lodge, kitchen, dining halls and bunkhouses, is also available.



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Falcon State Park

P.O. Box 2, Falcon Heights 78545 ☎ (956) 848-5327

GPS Latitude N 26 34 58.54 | Longitude W 99 08 33.43



On the shores of Falcon Reservoir, wild olive, wild oregano, hibiscus, mesquite thickets, huisache and prickly pear cactus give refuge to roadrunners, javelina, deer, cottontail rabbits and bobcats. While park visitors enjoy the scenic views and abundant wildlife, they can kick back at this peaceful retreat where park hosts organize a variety of activities. Visit during the winter months for great bird-watching. The world-class bass fishing draws anglers from across the United

States to the 98,960-surface-acre lake. The sunset over the lake with the mountains in the background is a view you won't forget. Visitors can also enjoy a butterfly garden. 📶

Goliad State Park

108 Park Road 6, Goliad 77963-3206 ☎ (361) 645-3405

GPS Latitude N 28 39 23.68 | Longitude W 97 23 13.66



More than 250 years ago, Spanish missionaries and soldiers established Mission Espíritu Santo at Goliad on the San Antonio River. Cattle thrived on these rich grasslands, the origin of the great Texas ranching industry. Today, you can camp under massive oaks along the river, discover the site's history in the museum, and explore beautiful natural habitats while strolling along the Aranama Nature

Trail. Mission Espíritu Santo impresses with aging serenity, rising against a blue sky as an icon of the Spanish Colonial Era. General Ignacio Zaragoza (1829-1862), Mexican general and the hero of Cinco de Mayo, was born in Goliad when it was a sleepy village on Mexico's northern frontier. The 1836 Battle of Coleto Creek was fought nearby, marking a distressing loss during the Texas Revolution, and is remembered at the nearby Fannin Battleground State Historic Site.

Lake Casa Blanca International State Park

5102 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo 78041 ☎ (956) 725-3826

GPS Latitude N 27 32' 22.90 | Longitude W 99 27' 08.39



¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to the state park in Laredo, a town known as the Gateway to Mexico! Park your RV or pitch your tent and then cook up some hamburgers or fajitas on one of the park's many barbecue pits. Four recreation halls and picnic pavilions invite family gatherings or fiestas. Fishing in the park's lake is also great for largemouth bass. The park is home to a variety of wildlife and is a popular spot for migratory birds and butterflies. And, as the bilingual exit sign says, *Regrese Pronto — Y'all Come Back Soon!* 📶

The World Birding Center



The World Birding Center is a network of nine individual birding parks and sites throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where some 500 different bird species can be observed. The network includes three state parks: Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco, Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Mission.

www.theworldbirdingcenter.com



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FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES INDEX

Facility Indicators:

- Facilities/services provided
- Permitted but facilities not provided

Shelter Abbreviations:

- A** Shelters with A/C
- H** Motel/Lodging
- HR** Hotel and Restaurant

Site Abbreviations:

- SHS** State Historic Site
- SNA** State Natural Area
- SP** State Park
- TW** Trailway
- K** Mountain Biking
- L** Surfaced

Directory Page Number	PARKS	FACILITIES	CAMPsites	TRAILS	ACTIVITIES	COORDINATES	LATITUDE (degrees, minutes, seconds) N	LONGITUDE (degrees, minutes, seconds) W
61	ABILENE SP						32 14 26.34	99 52 44.65
71	ATLANTA SP						33 13 50.66	94 14 58.77
23	BALMORHEA SP						30 56 42.21	103 47 11.79
24	BARTON WARNOCK						29 16 11.85	103 45 14.83
80	BASTROP SP						30 06 36.61	97 17 12.98
35	BATTLESHIP TEXAS SHS						29 45 05.72	95 05 23.64
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24	BIG BEND RANCH SP						29 28 12.18	103 57 29.08
61	BIG SPRING SP						32 13 55.99	101 29 26.48
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80	BUESCHER SP						30 02 20.90	97 09 29.66
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81	CEDAR HILL SP						32 37 18.19	96 58 44.86
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101	CHOKE CANYON SP - South Shore						33 17 16.1	95 39 28.1
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82	COOPER LAKE SP - Doctors Creek						33 20 57.08	95 39 52.02
82	COOPER LAKE SP - South Sulphur						33 17 26.8	95 39 46.9
73	COPPER BREAKS SP						34 06 44.06	99 44 34.94
72	DAINGERFIELD SP						33 00 46.69	94 41 26.62
25	DAVIS MOUNTAINS SP						30 35 56.83	103 55 46.09
26	DEVILS RIVER SNA						29 56 22.84	100 58 13.18
46	DEVIL'S SINKHOLE SNA						30 03 33.19	100 06 35.17
82	DINOSAUR VALLEY SP						32 14 46.50	97 48 48.13
83	EISENHOWER SP						33 48 37.11	96 35 59.92
46	ENCHANTED ROCK SNA						30 29 45.45	98 49 11.53
102	ESTERO LLANO GRANDE SP						26 07 35.0796	97 57 23.4648
84	FAIRFIELD LAKE SP						31 45 55.11	96 04 23.37
104	FALCON SP						26 34 58.54	99 08 33.43
85	FANTHROP INN SHS						30 28 58.62	95 59 02.11
86	FORT BOGGY SP						31 11 14.38	95 58 28.77
26	FORT LEATON SHS						29 32 38.004	104 19 39
86	FORT PARKER SP						31 35 32.56	96 31 35.79
64	FORT RICHARDSON SP, SHS & TW						33 12 22.14	98 09 25.09
28	FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS SP						31 55 00.87	106 31 10.20
36	GALVESTON ISLAND SP						29 11 55.10	94 57 23.40
47	GARNIER SP						29 34 54.48	99 44 30.69
104	GOLIAD SP						28 39 23.68	97 23 13.66
37	GOOSE ISLAND SP						28 08 00.67	96 59 03.44
47	GOVERNMENT CANYON SNA						29 32 57.60	98 45 53.43
48	GUADALUPE RIVER SP/ HONEY CREEK SNA						29 51 11.23	98 30 15.66
49	HILL COUNTRY SNA						29 37 40.98	99 10 50.48
29	HUECO TANKS SP & SHS						31 55 33.78	106 02 31.59
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105	LAKE CASA BLANCA INTL SP						27 32 22.90	99 27 08.39
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87	LAKE MINERAL WELLS SP & TW						32 48 53.28	98 02 18.96
88	LAKE SOMERVILLE SP & TW - Birch Creek						30 18 35.82	96 38 06.75
88	LAKE SOMERVILLE SP & TW - Neils Creek						30 17 26.59	96 40 01.27
88	LAKE TAWAKONI SP						32 50 31.12	95 59 37.53
90	LAKE WHITNEY SP						31 55 52.60	97 21 24.73
37	LIPANTILLAN SHS						27 57 53.99	97 49 4.79
90	LOCKHART SP						29 51 19.58	97 41 51.93
51	LONGHORN CAVERN SP						30 41 04.05	98 21 3.24
52	LOST MAPLES SNA						29 48 27.72	98 34 14.26
53	LYNDON B. JOHNSON SP & SHS						30 14 15.82	98 37 34.75
75	MARTIN CREEK LAKE SP						32 16 40.80	94 33 57.56

A	Shelters with A/C
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HR	Hotel and Restaurant

SHS State Historic Site
SNA State Natural Area
SP State Park
TW Trailway

K	Mountain Biking
L	Surfaced

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